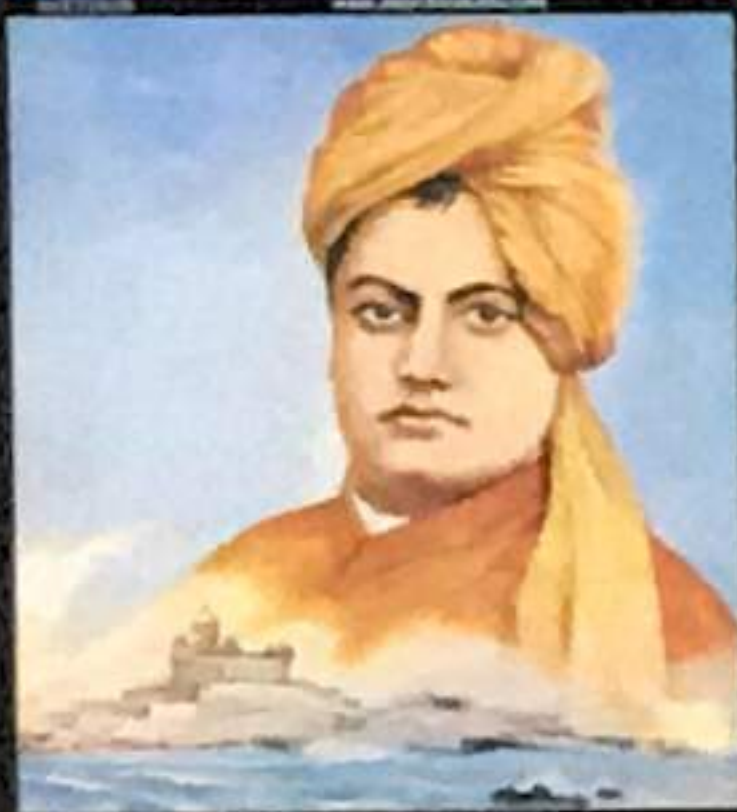


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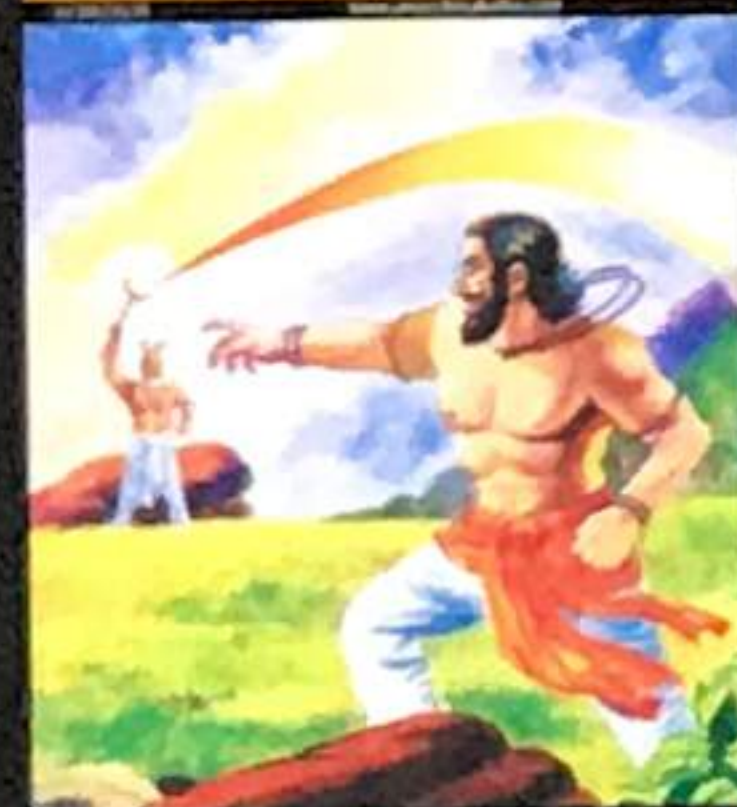


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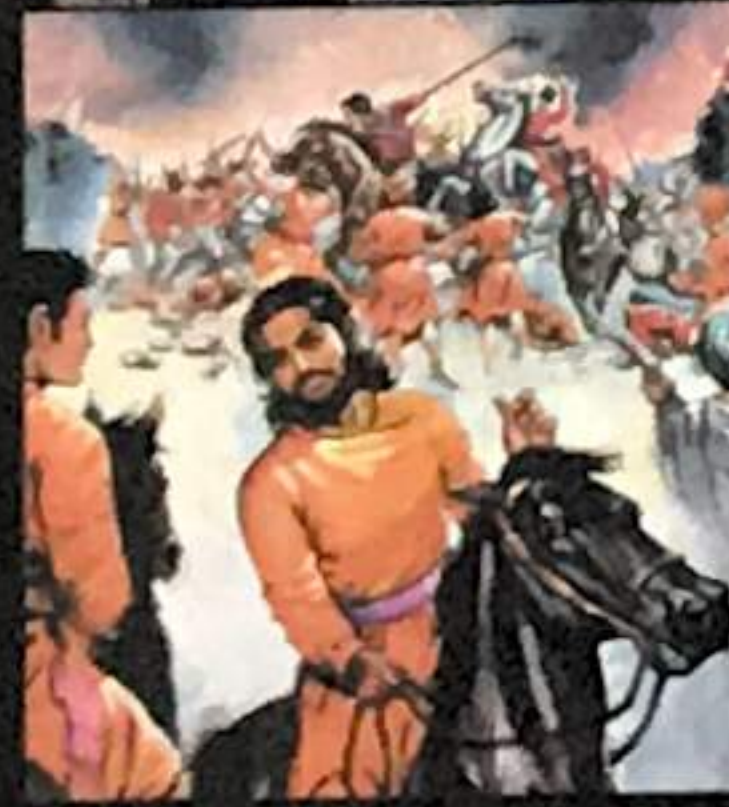
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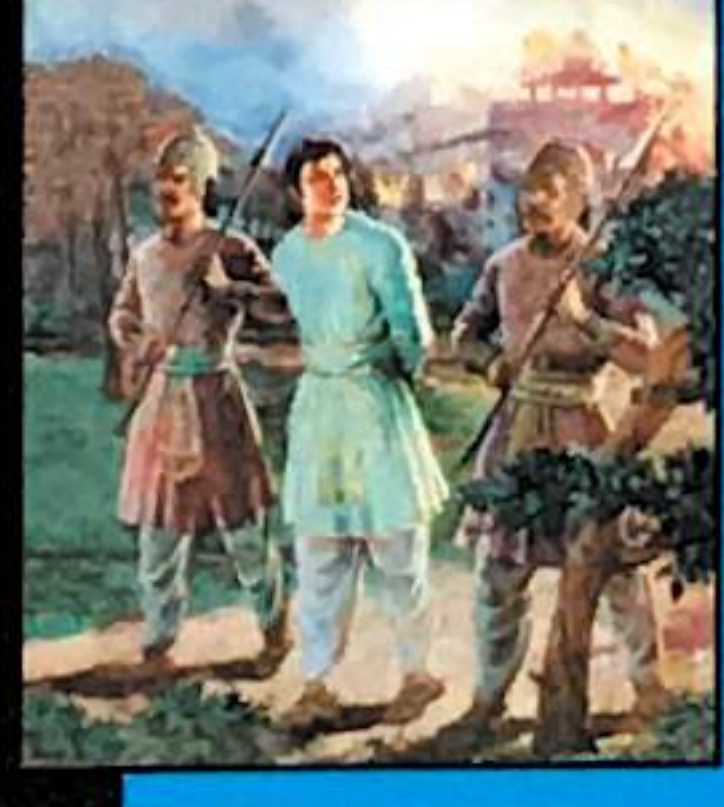
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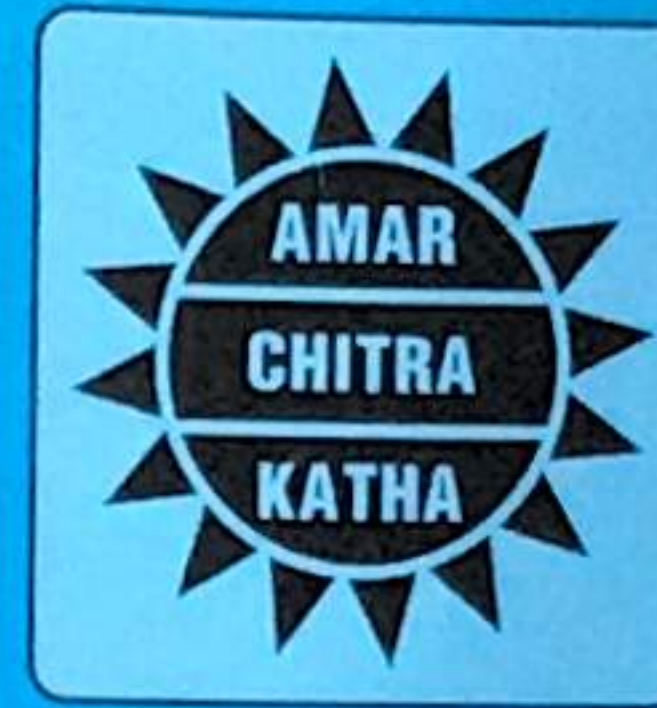
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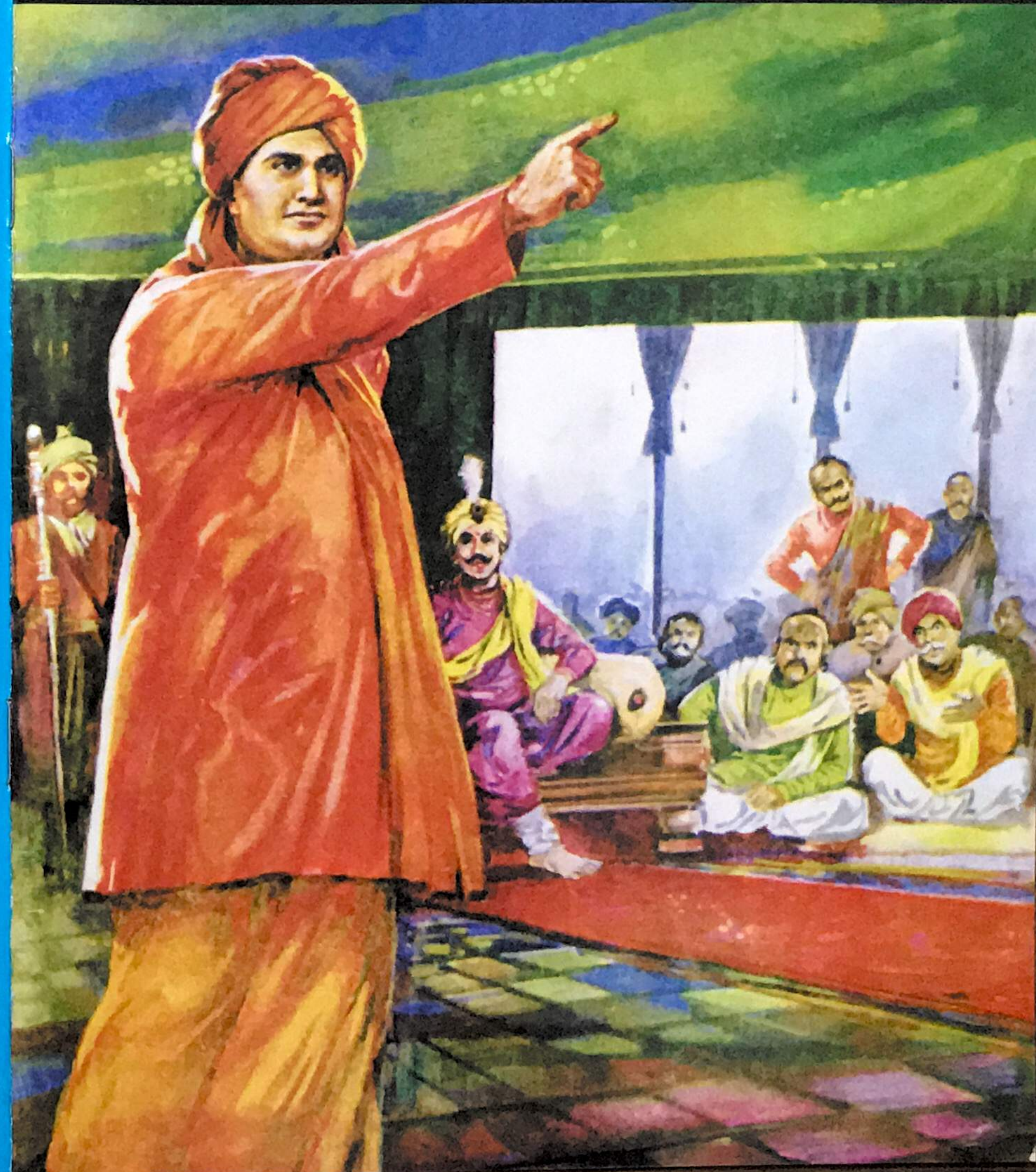
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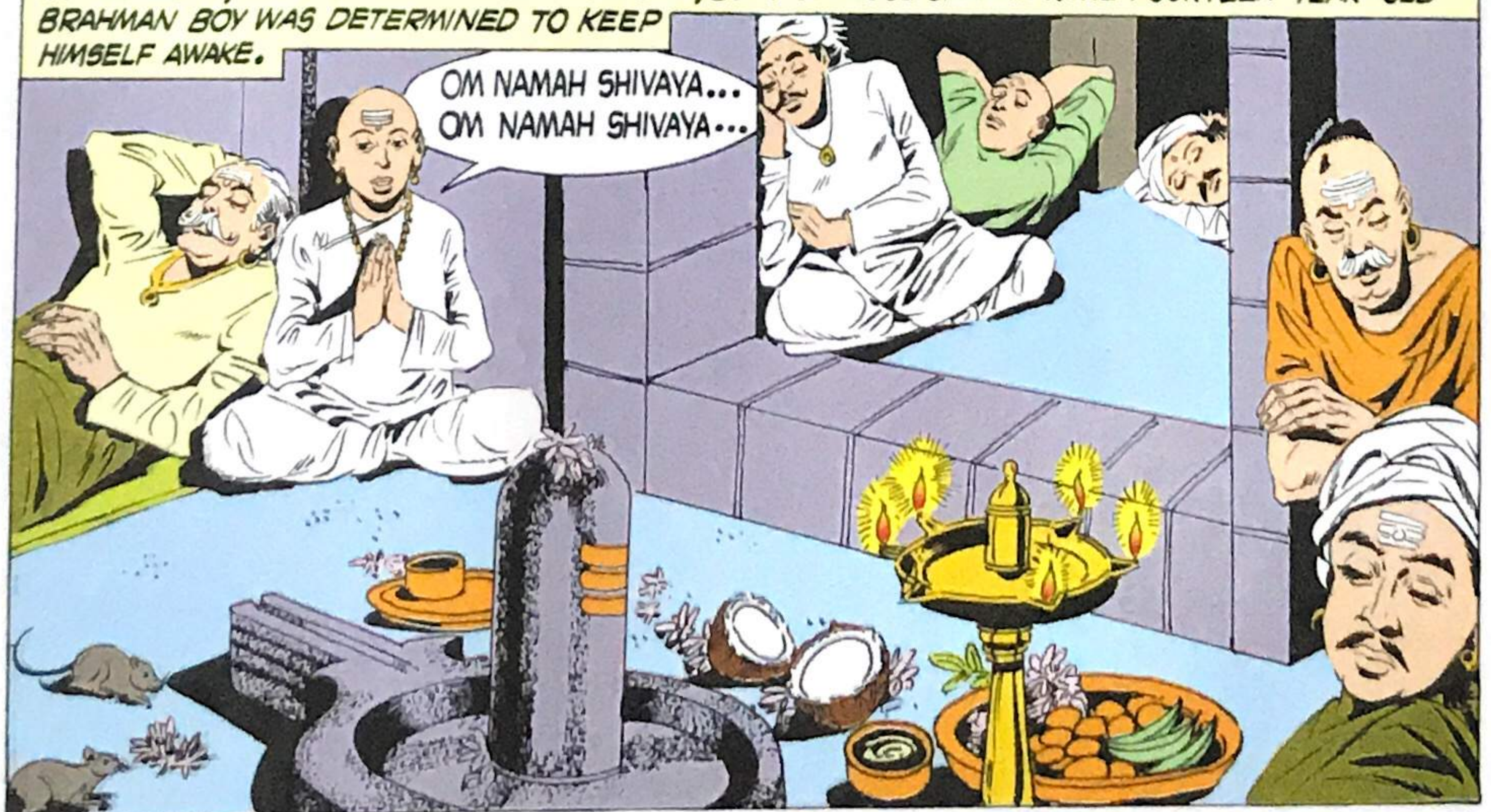
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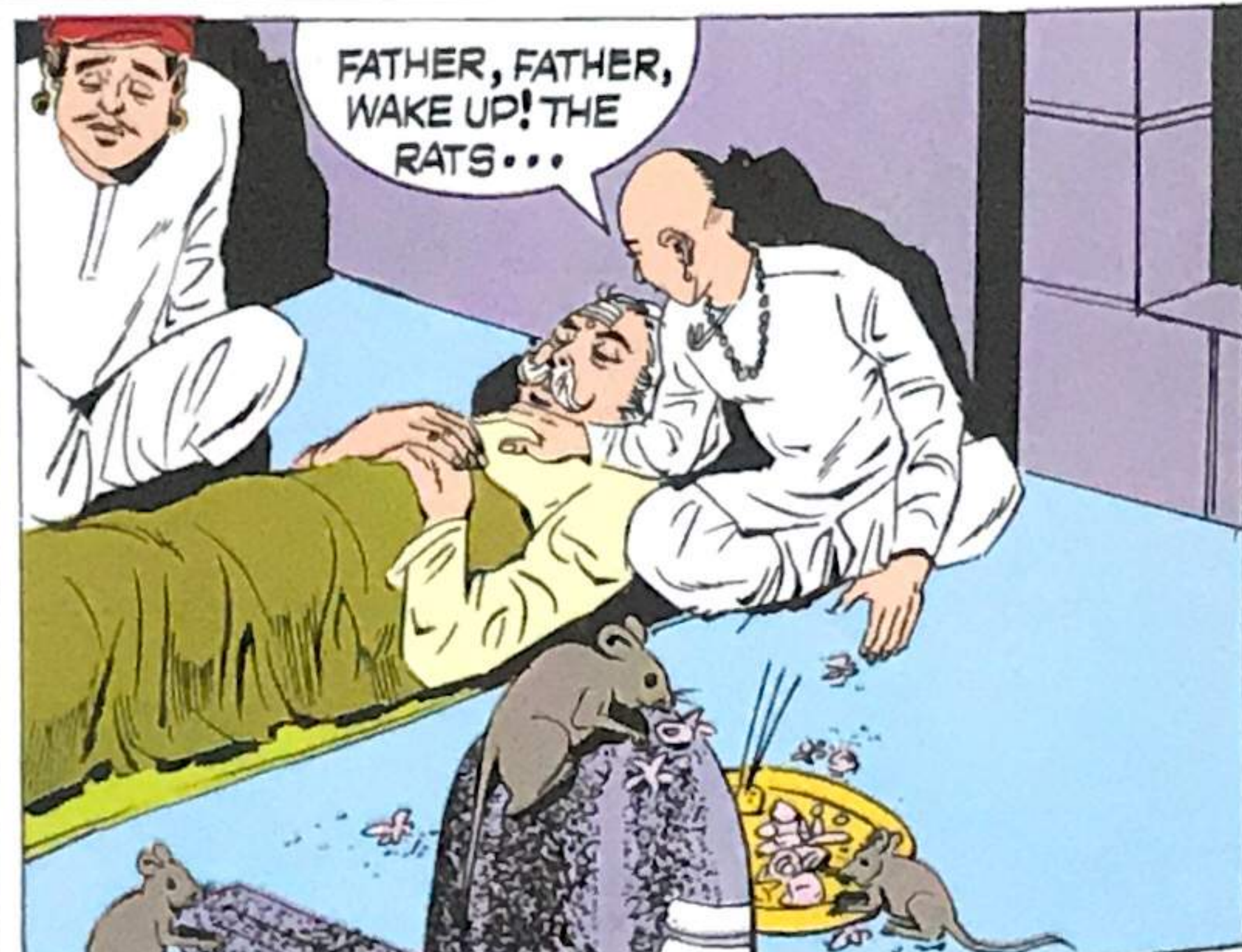
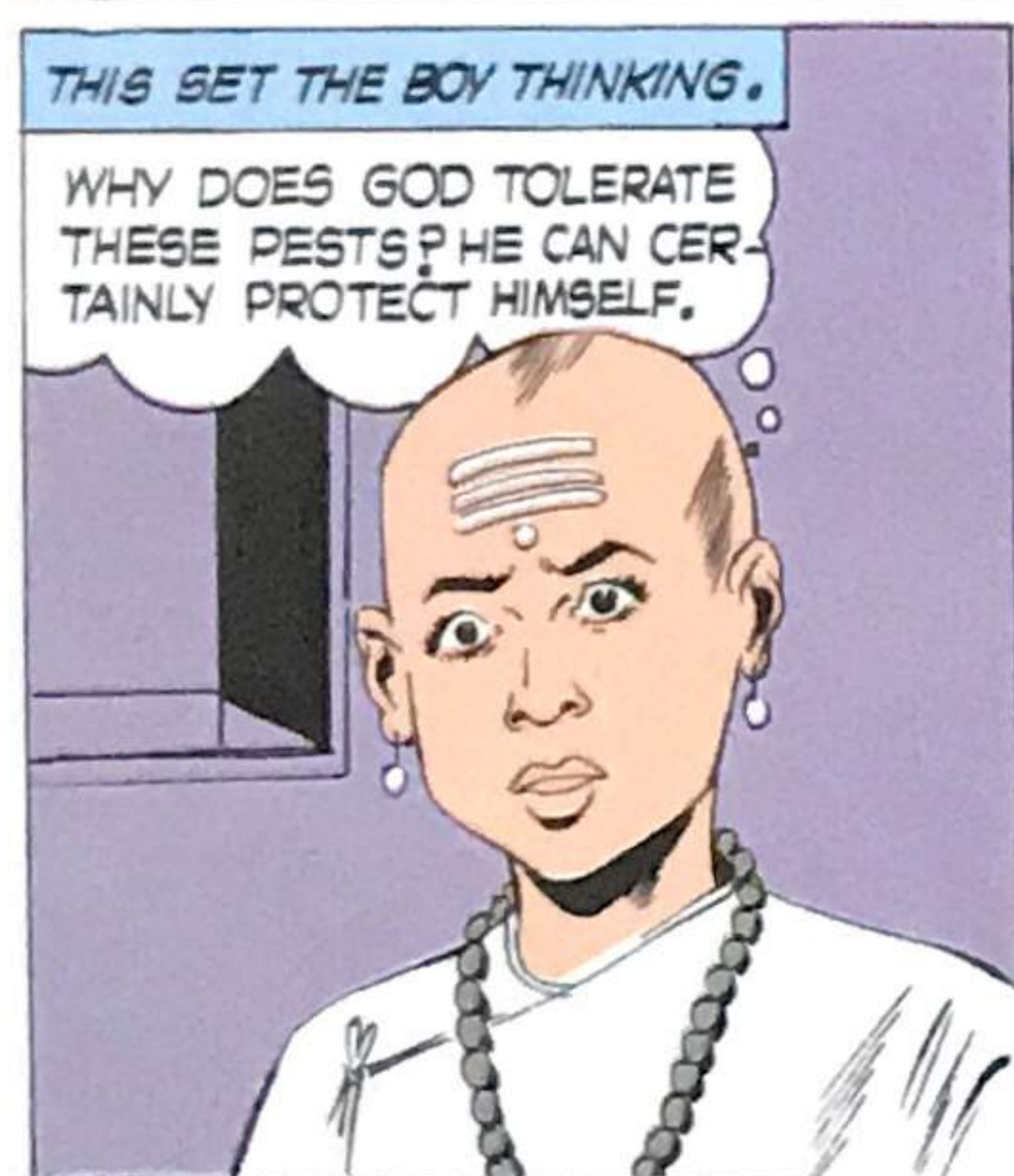
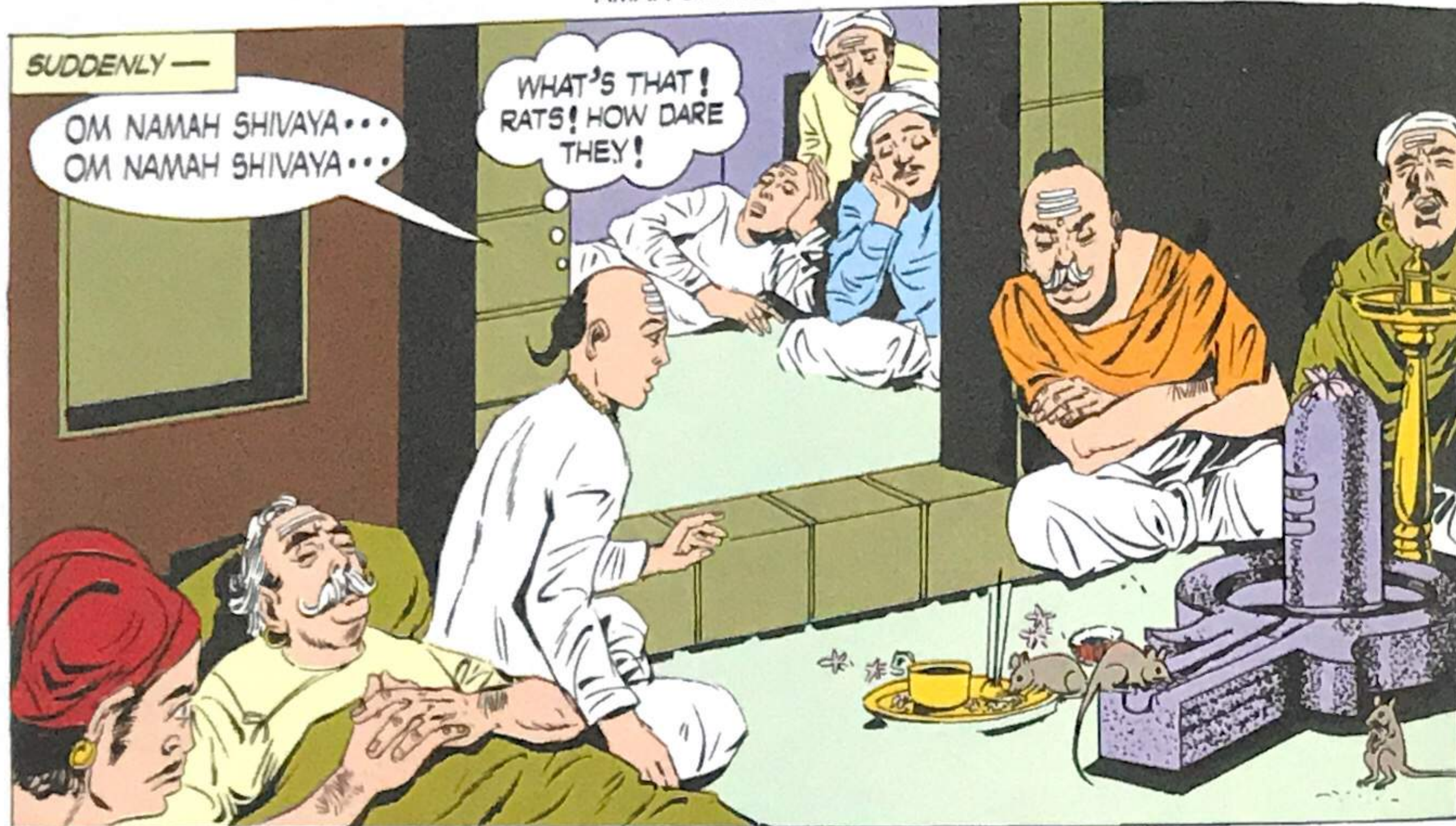


IT WAS THE NIGHT OF THE MAHA SHIVA RATRI FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR 1839. DEVOTEES FROM FAR AND NEAR HAD GATHERED AT THE SHIVA TEMPLE IN TANKARA.* THEY HAD FASTED SINCE MORNING AND WERE CHANTING THE NAME OF SHIVA.

BY MIDNIGHT, MANY OF THEM BEGAN TO DOZE; BUT NOT MOOL SHANKAR. THE FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD BRAHMAN BOY WAS DETERMINED TO KEEP HIMSELF AWAKE.



* SALUTATIONS TO SHIVA. ** NEAR MORVI IN GUJARAT STATE



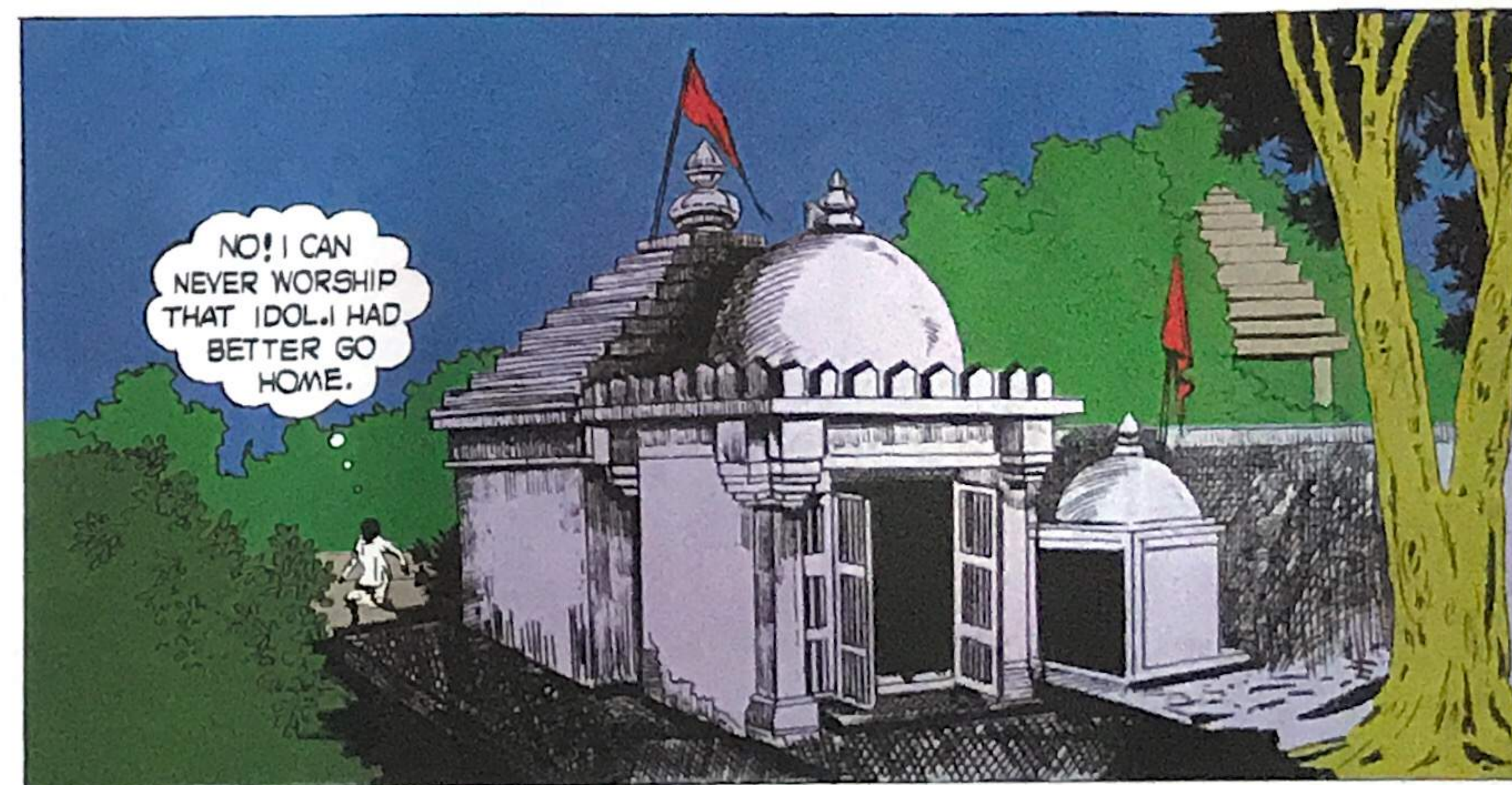
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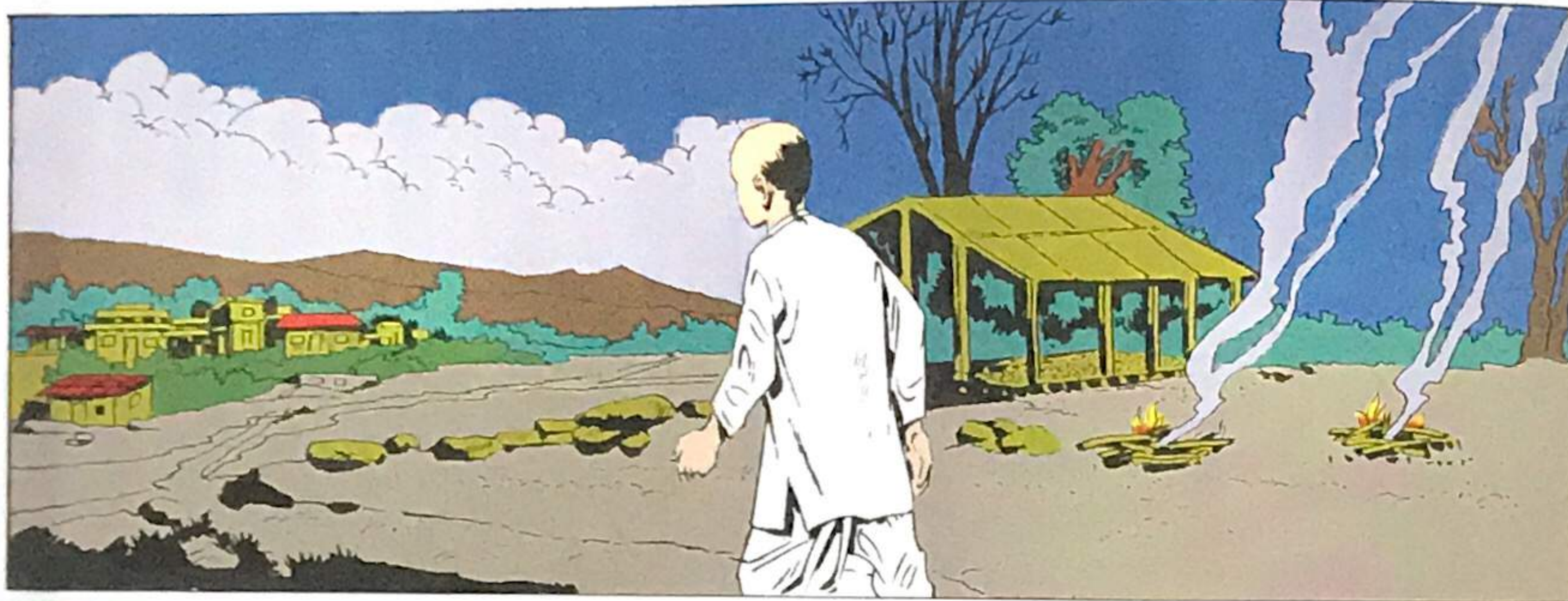


MOOL SHANKAR TRIED TO OBEY HIS FATHER.

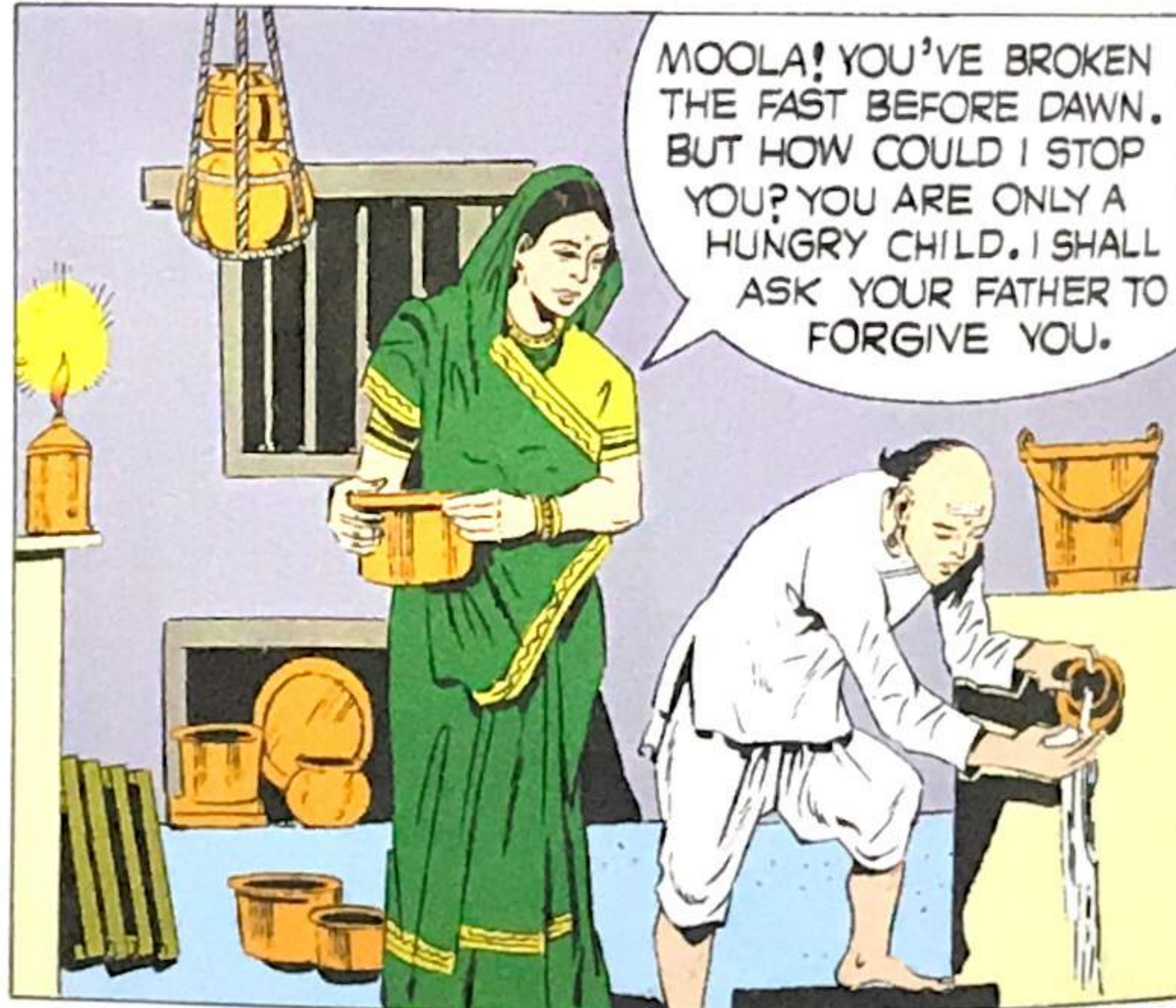


BUT HE COULD NOT CONCENTRATE.

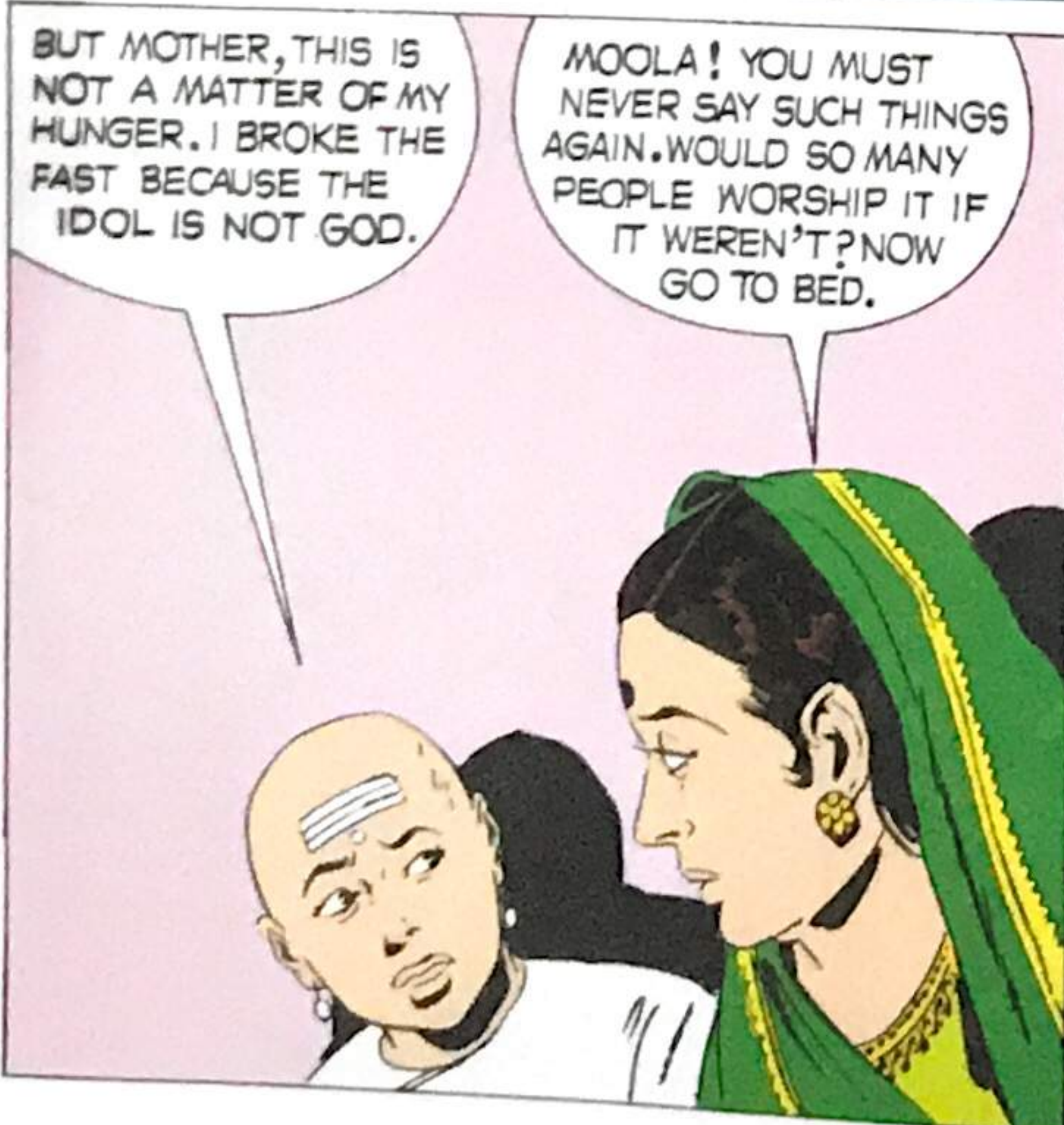




AS SOON AS HE REACHED HOME, HE BROKE HIS FAST.



MOOLA! YOU'VE BROKEN THE FAST BEFORE DAWN. BUT HOW COULD I STOP YOU? YOU ARE ONLY A HUNGRY CHILD. I SHALL ASK YOUR FATHER TO FORGIVE YOU.



BUT MOTHER, THIS IS NOT A MATTER OF MY HUNGER. I BROKE THE FAST BECAUSE THE IDOL IS NOT GOD.

MOOLA! YOU MUST NEVER SAY SUCH THINGS AGAIN. WOULD SO MANY PEOPLE WORSHIP IT IF IT WEREN'T? NOW GO TO BED.



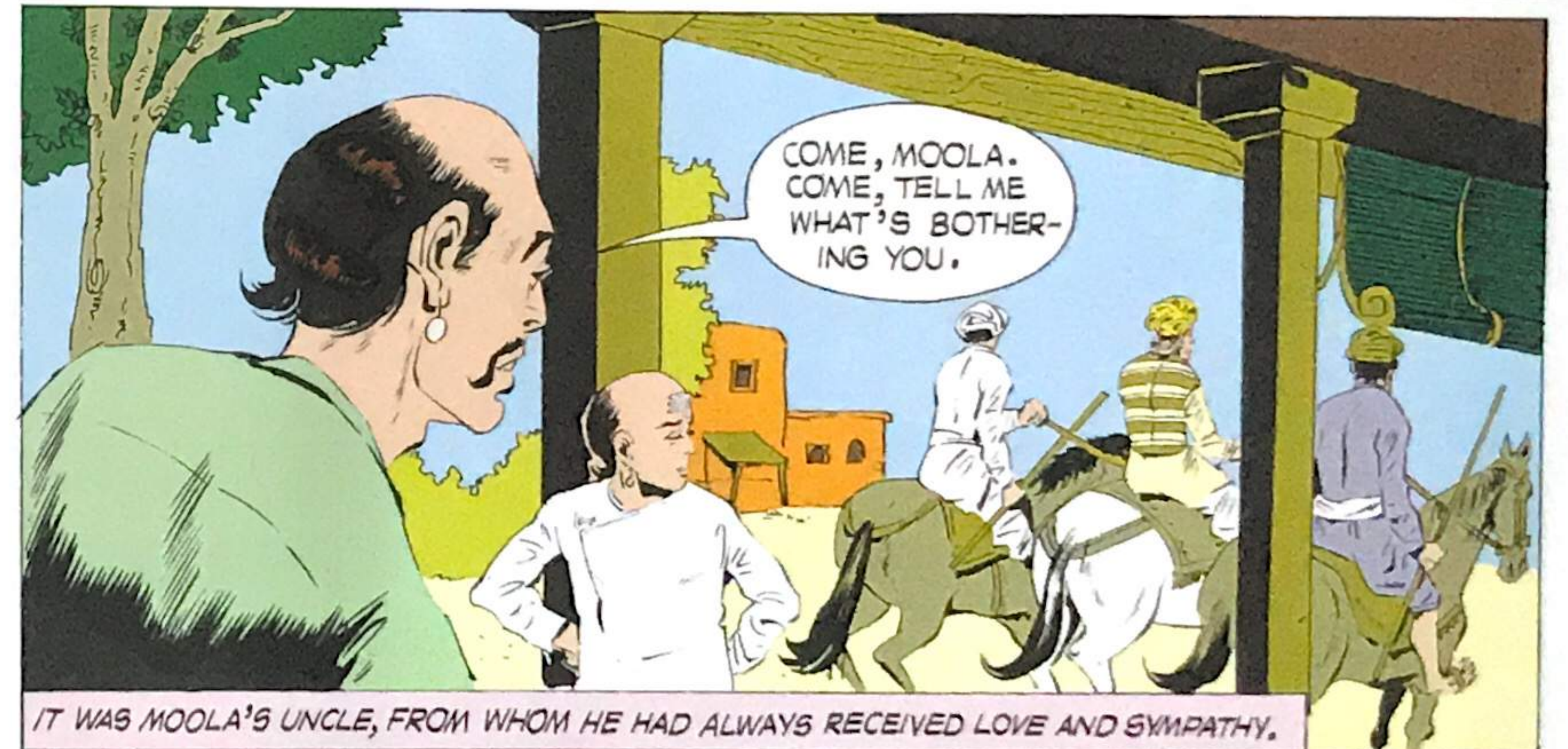
BUT MOOL SHANKAR COULD HARDLY SLEEP.

WHY SHOULD I DO SOMETHING SIMPLY BECAUSE OTHERS ARE DOING IT?

THE NEXT MORNING, MOOL SHANKAR TRIED TO TALK TO HIS FATHER. BUT KARSHANJI TIWARI WAS THE TAHSILDAR* OF TANKARA AND WAS TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES TO SPARE MUCH TIME FOR HIS SON.

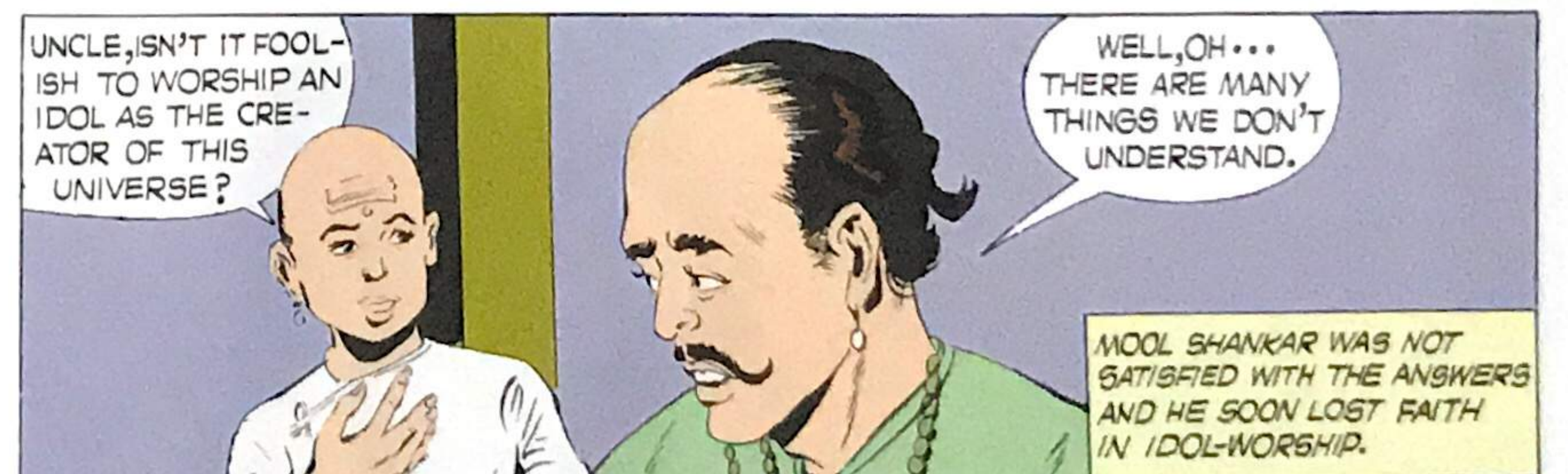


WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER, MOOLA.



COME, MOOLA. COME, TELL ME WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU.

IT WAS MOOLA'S UNCLE, FROM WHOM HE HAD ALWAYS RECEIVED LOVE AND SYMPATHY.

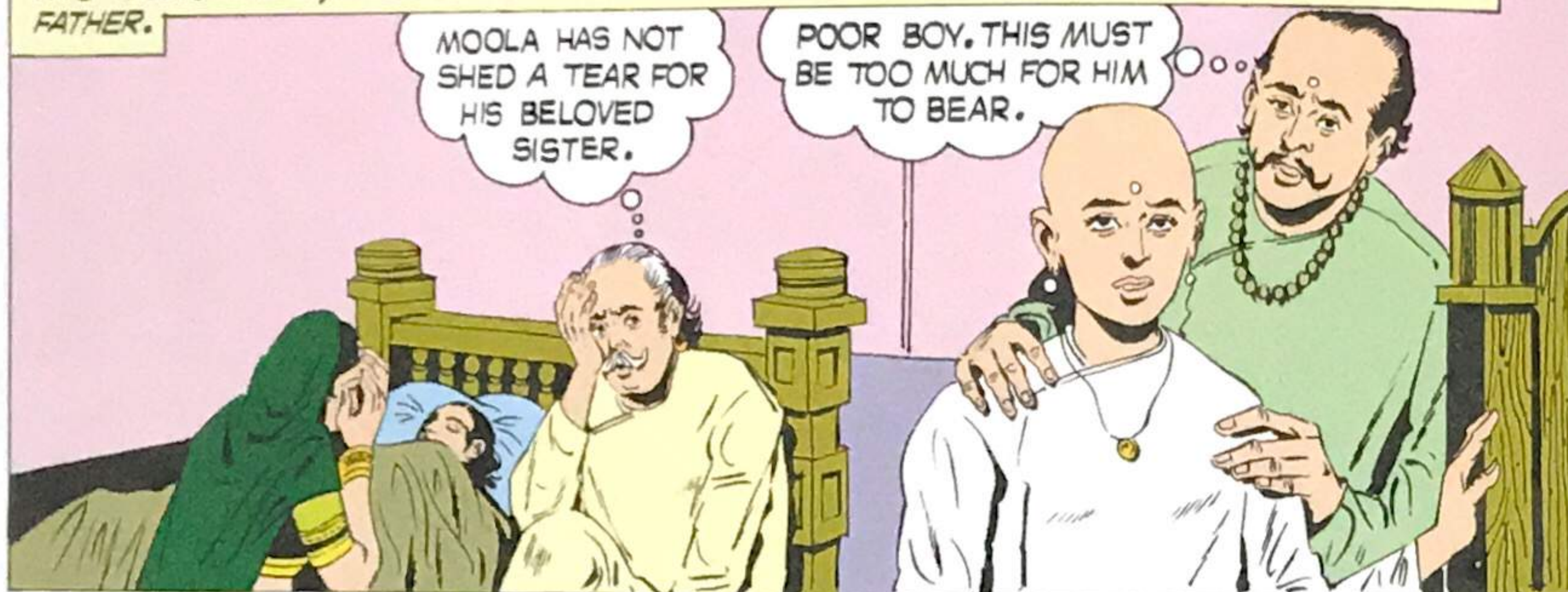


UNCLE, ISN'T IT FOOLISH TO WORSHIP AN IDOL AS THE CREATOR OF THIS UNIVERSE?

WELL, OH... THERE ARE MANY THINGS WE DON'T UNDERSTAND.

MOOL SHANKAR WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE ANSWERS AND HE SOON LOST FAITH IN IDOL-WORSHIP.

TWO YEARS LATER, MOOLA'S SISTER DIED OF CHOLERA. HIS SEEMING INDIFFERENCE SHOCKED HIS FATHER.



MOOLA HAS NOT SHED A TEAR FOR HIS BELOVED SISTER.

POOR BOY. THIS MUST BE TOO MUCH FOR HIM TO BEAR.

BY THE TIME MOOL SHANKAR WAS NINETEEN, HE BEGAN TO THINK DEEPLY ABOUT LIFE AND DEATH.



UNCLE, WHAT ARE WE LIVING FOR? IS DEATH THE END OF IT ALL?

NO, SON. THE SOUL NEVER DIES. IT IS BORN AGAIN.

MOOLA'S MOTHER WAS TROUBLED BY HIS LONG SILENCES. SHE SPOKE TO HER HUSBAND ABOUT IT.

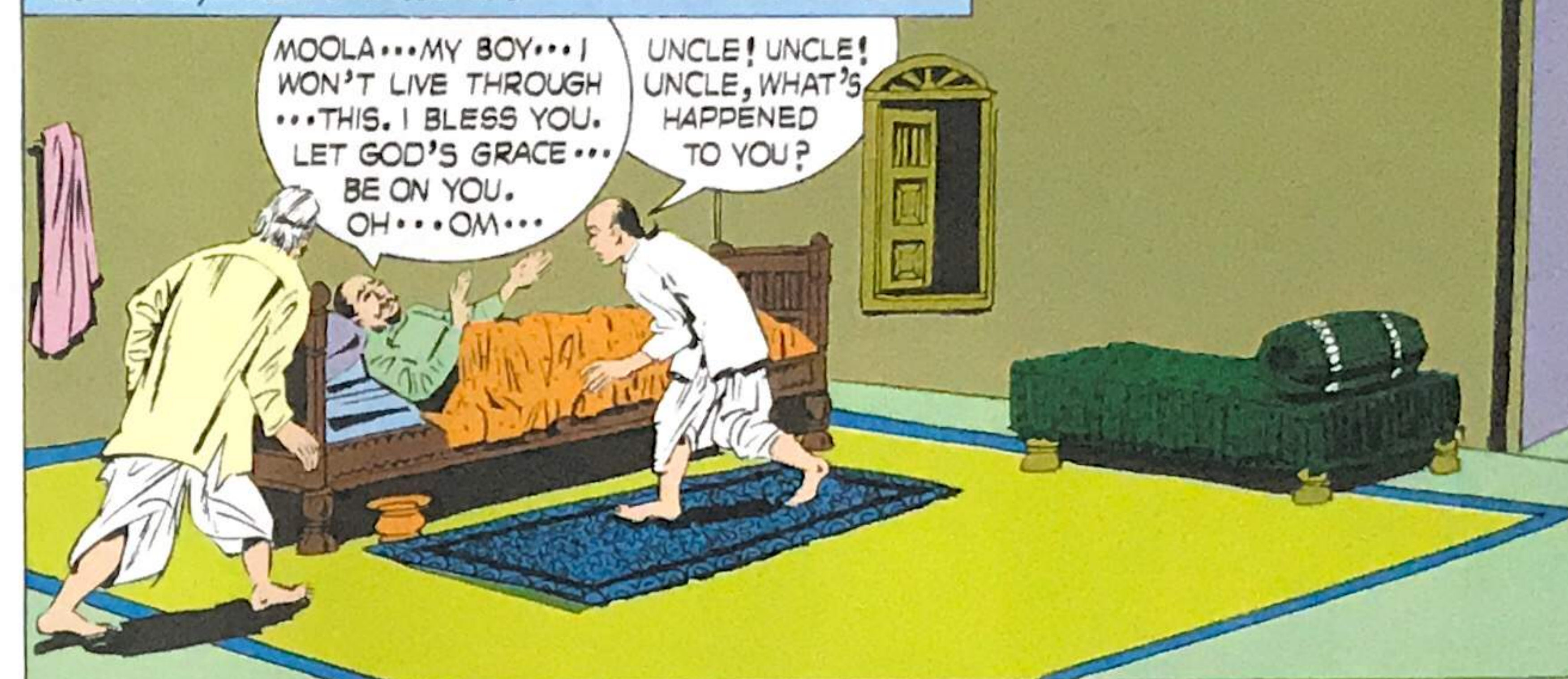
HE IS ALWAYS LOST IN THOUGHT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAS COME OVER HIM.



I THINK I DO. LET'S GET HIM MARRIED. I HAVE ALMOST ACCEPTED ONE OF THE MANY PROPOSALS FOR MOOLA!

MY MOOLA BRINGING HOME A BRIDE! HOW HAPPY I SHALL BE!

SUDDENLY, MOOLA'S UNCLE TOO HAD AN ATTACK OF CHOLERA.



MOOLA...MY BOY...I WON'T LIVE THROUGH...THIS. I BLESS YOU. LET GOD'S GRACE... BE ON YOU. OH...OM...

UNCLE! UNCLE! UNCLE, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?

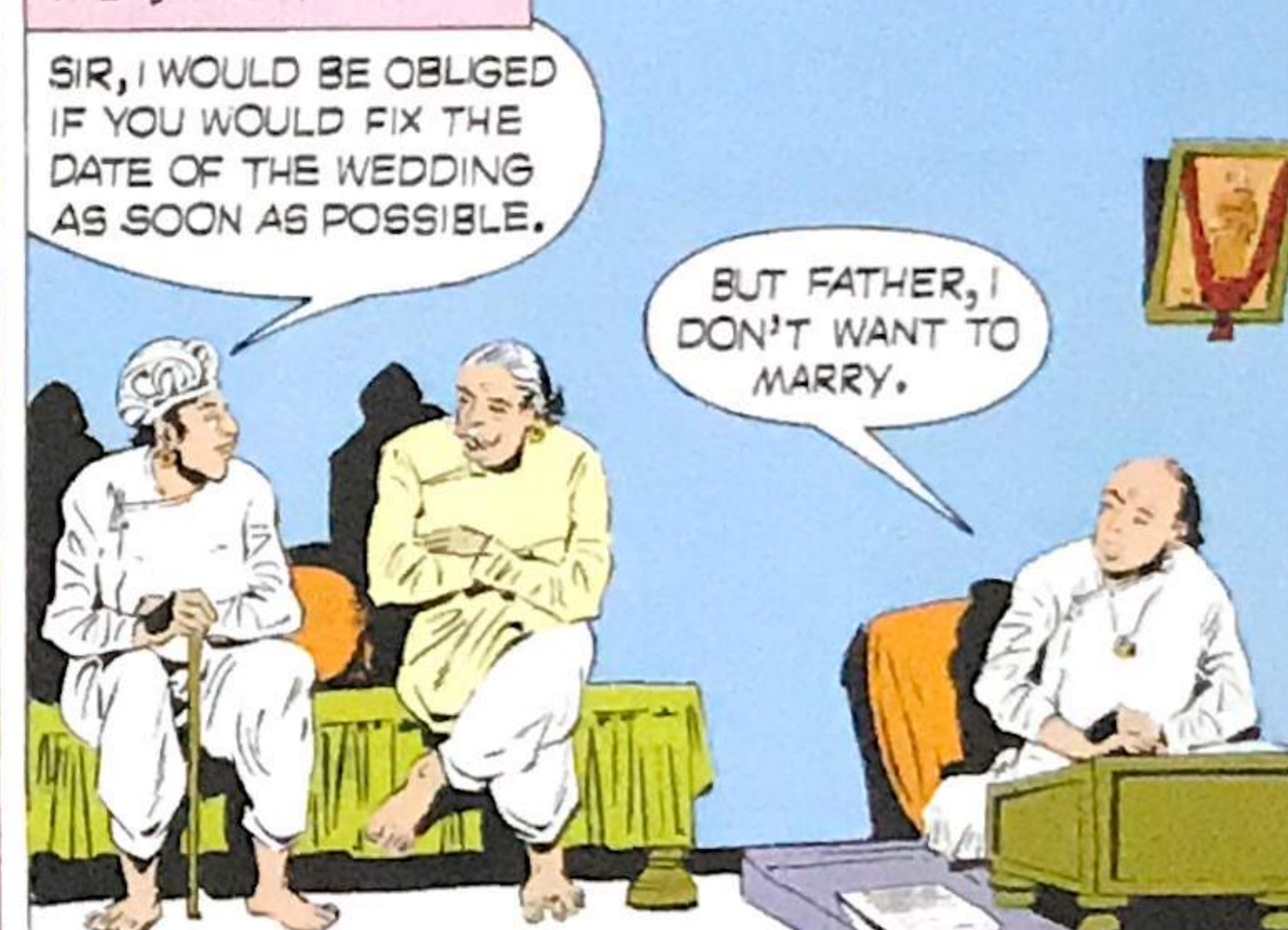
MOOLA WEPT BITTERLY.



THE CRUEL HANDS OF DEATH AGAIN.

BECAUSE OF THE UNCLE'S DEATH, MOOLA'S FATHER DID NOT BRING UP THE TOPIC OF HIS MARRIAGE FOR A WHILE.

THEN, A YEAR LATER —



SIR, I WOULD BE OBLIGED IF YOU WOULD FIX THE DATE OF THE WEDDING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BUT FATHER, I DON'T WANT TO MARRY.

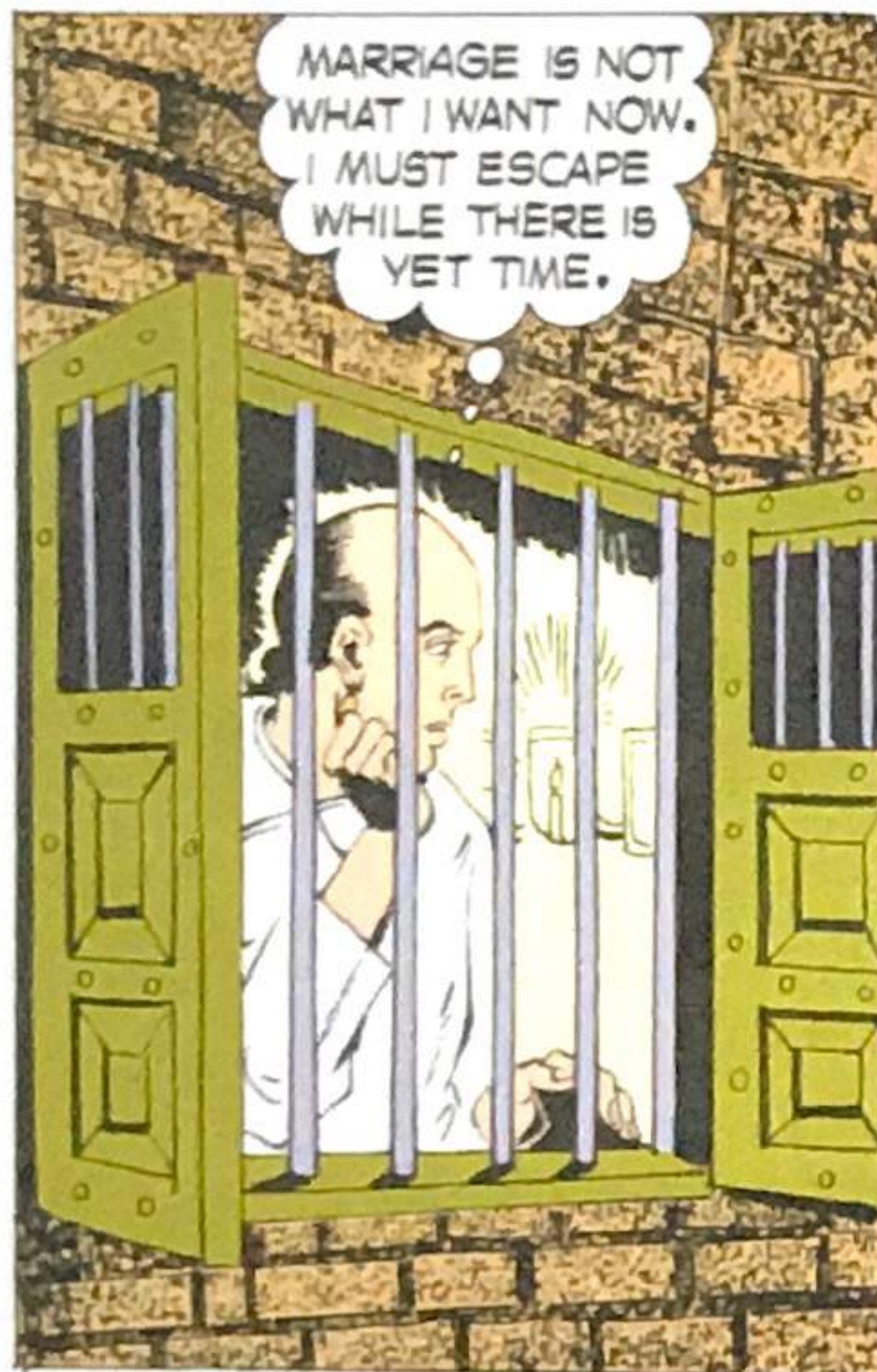
LATER —



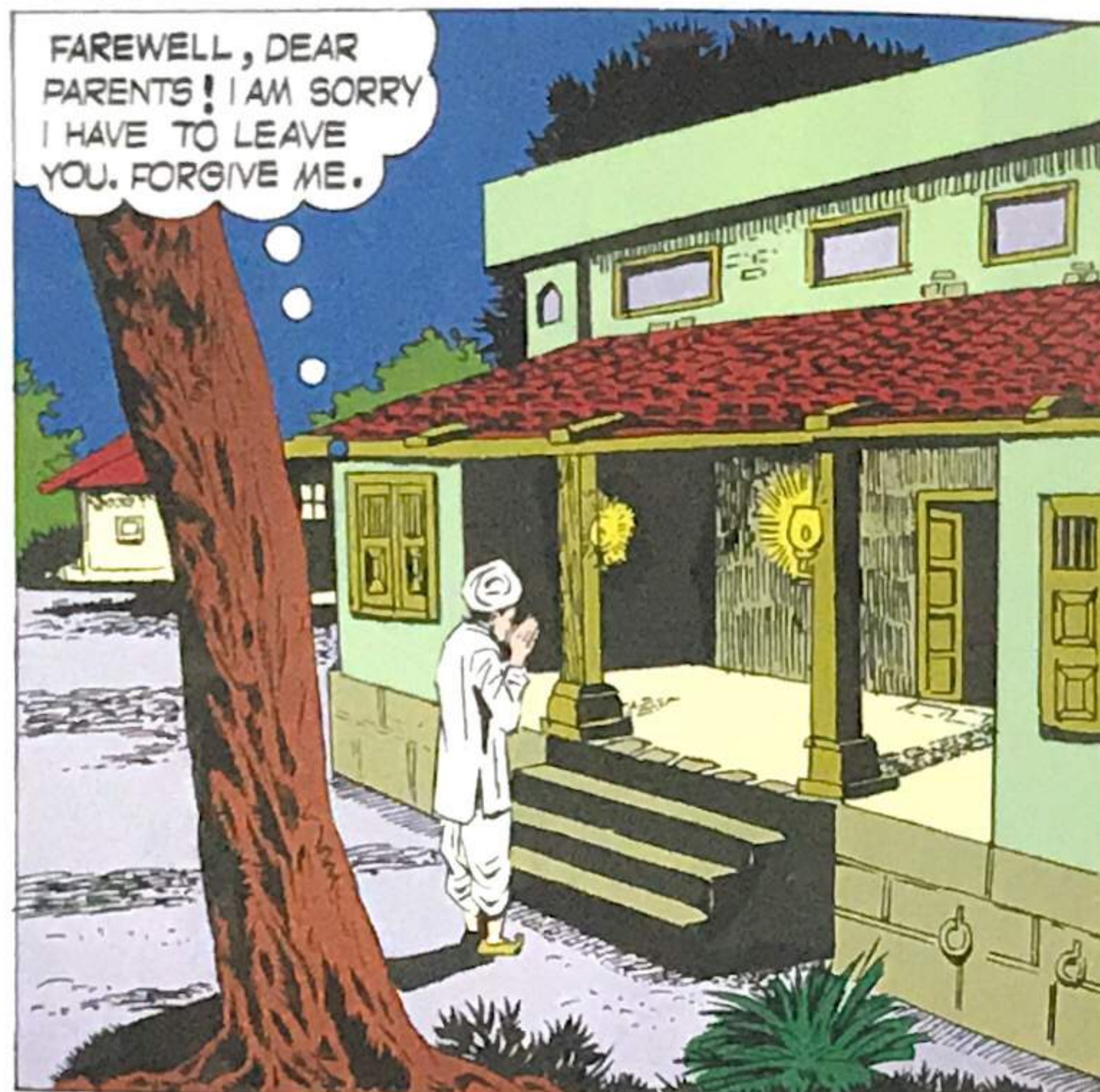
SON, I HAVE ALREADY GIVEN MY WORD; AND YOUR MOTHER HAS APPROVED OF THE GIRL. IT'S NOT FAIR TO DELAY ANY LONGER.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED.

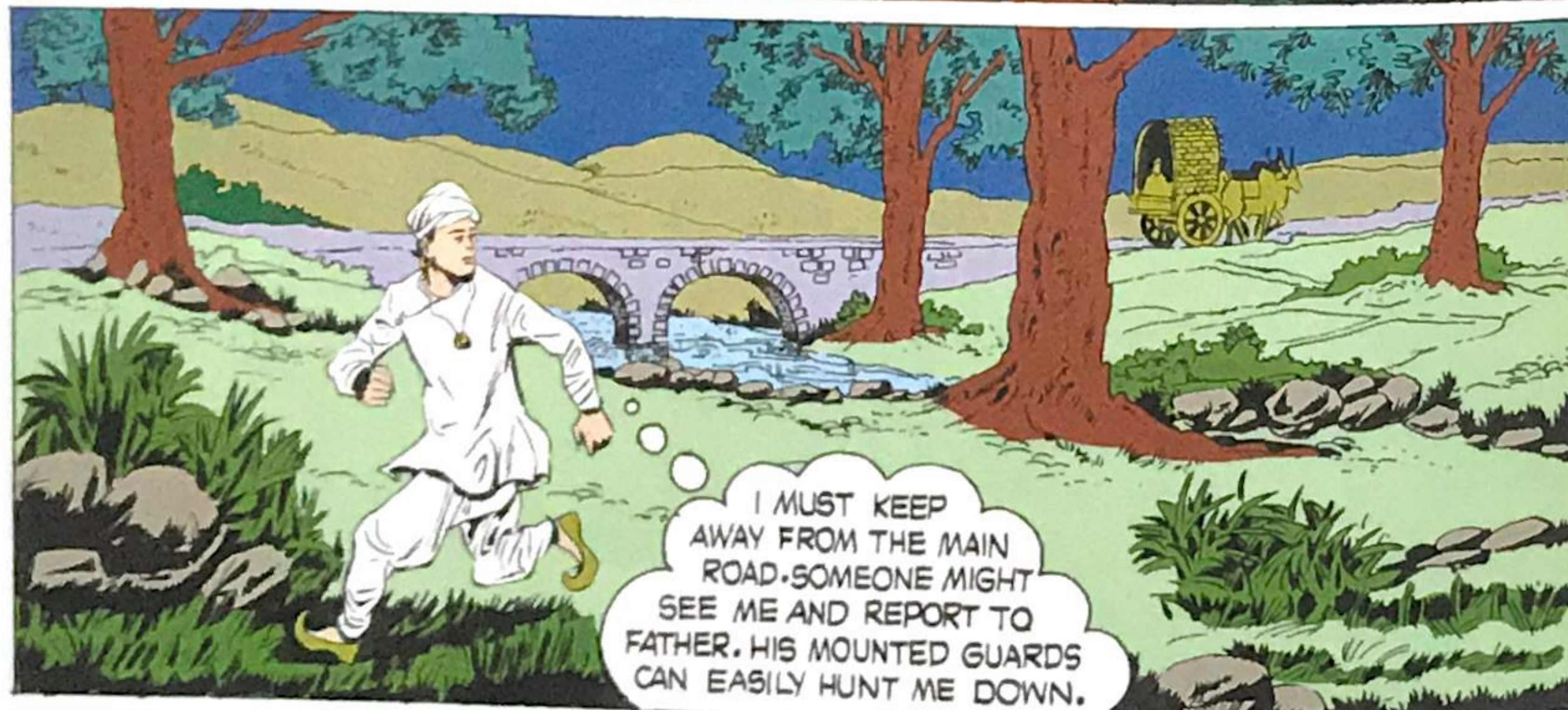
YOU CAN'T REFUSE NOW, MOOLA. IT WILL HURT THE FAMILY'S PRESTIGE, AND THE GIRL'S FUTURE.



MARRIAGE IS NOT WHAT I WANT NOW. I MUST ESCAPE WHILE THERE IS YET TIME.



FAREWELL, DEAR PARENTS! I AM SORRY I HAVE TO LEAVE YOU. FORGIVE ME.



I MUST KEEP AWAY FROM THE MAIN ROAD. SOMEONE MIGHT SEE ME AND REPORT TO FATHER. HIS MOUNTED GUARDS CAN EASILY HUNT ME DOWN.

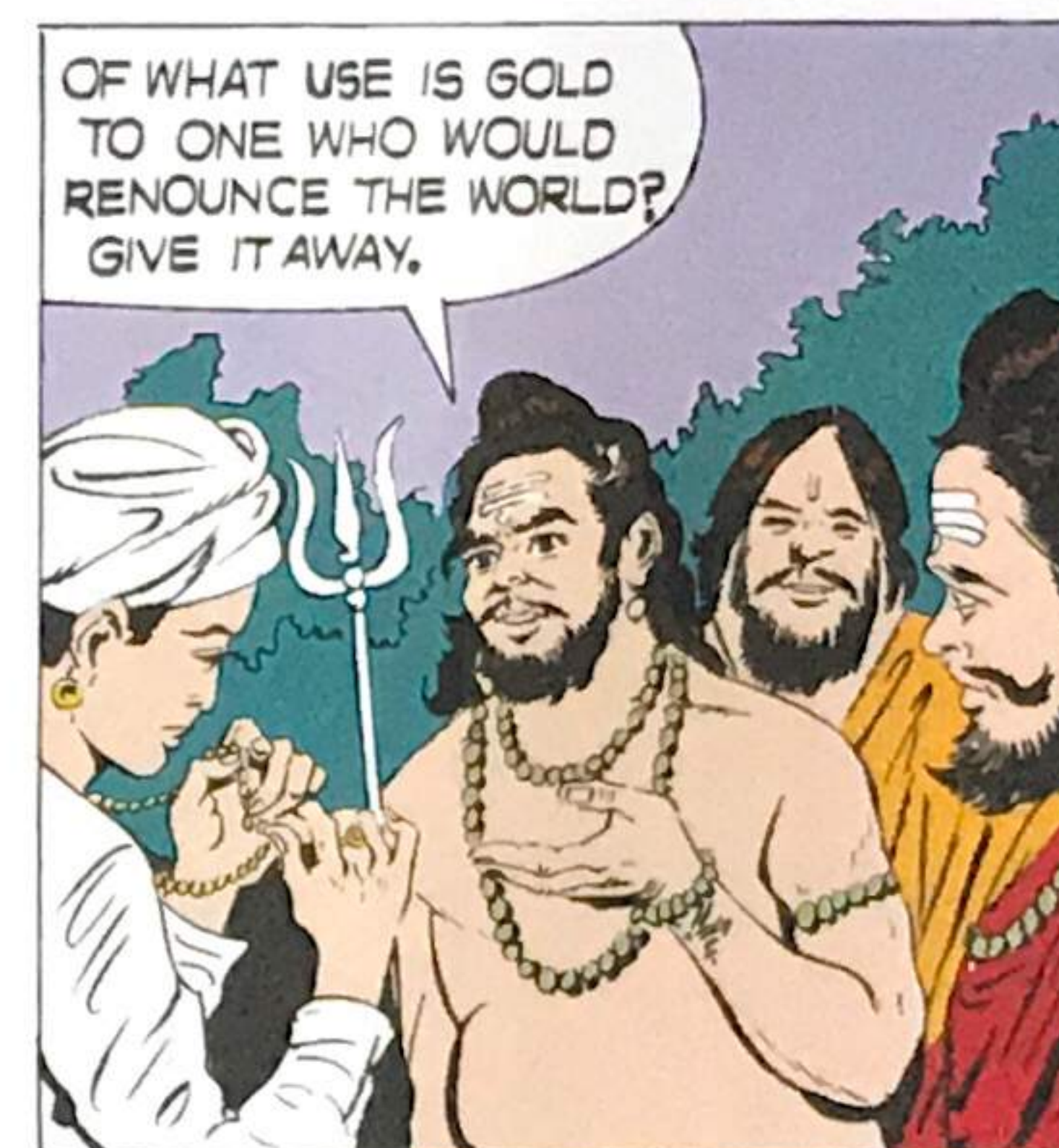


HE MET A GROUP OF SADHUS ON THE WAY. THEY EYED HIM GREEDILY.

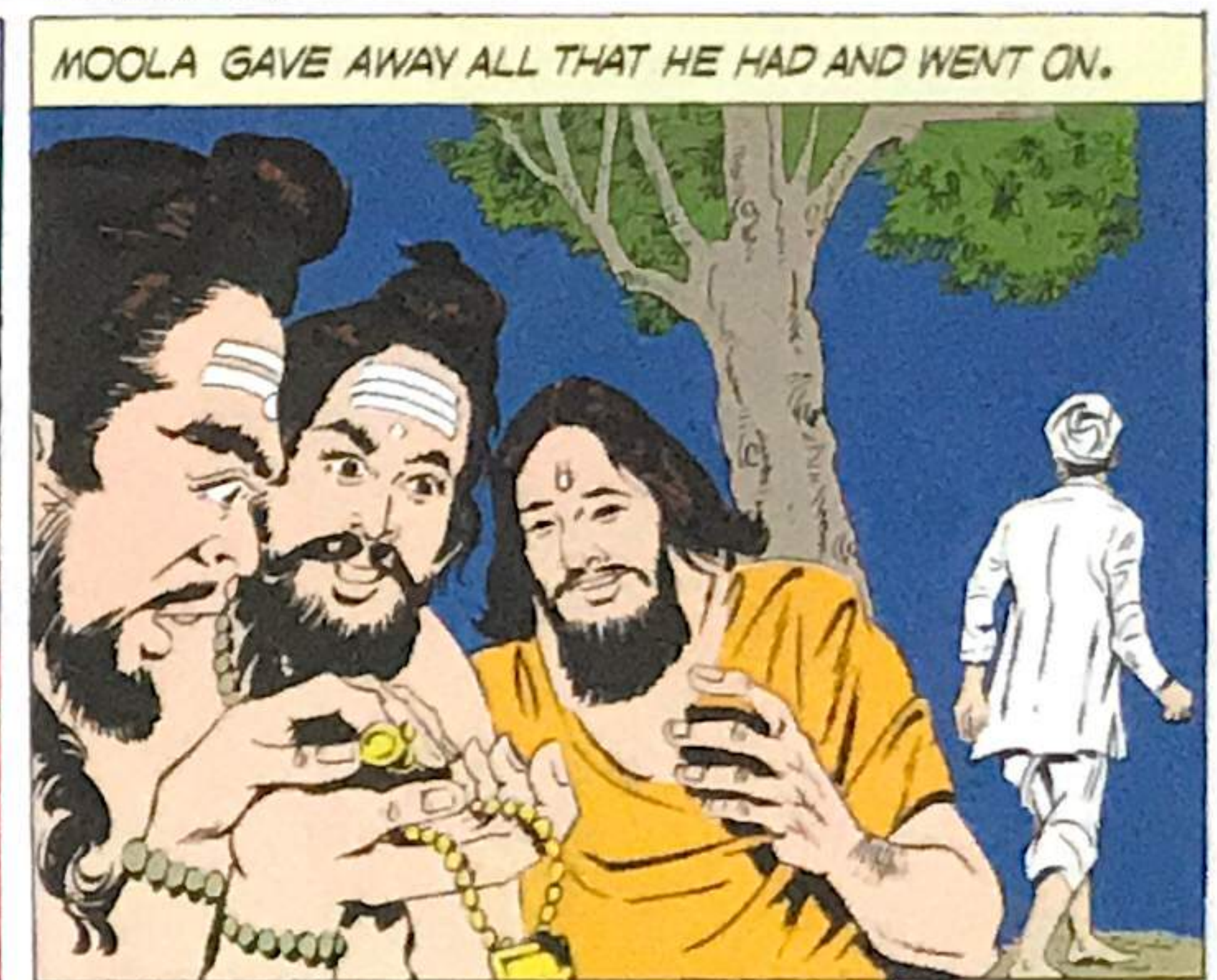
GOLDEN RINGS ON HIS FINGERS! HE SEEMS TO BE A RICH BOY.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I HAVE RENOUNCED THE WORLD. I AM IN SEARCH OF A GURU.

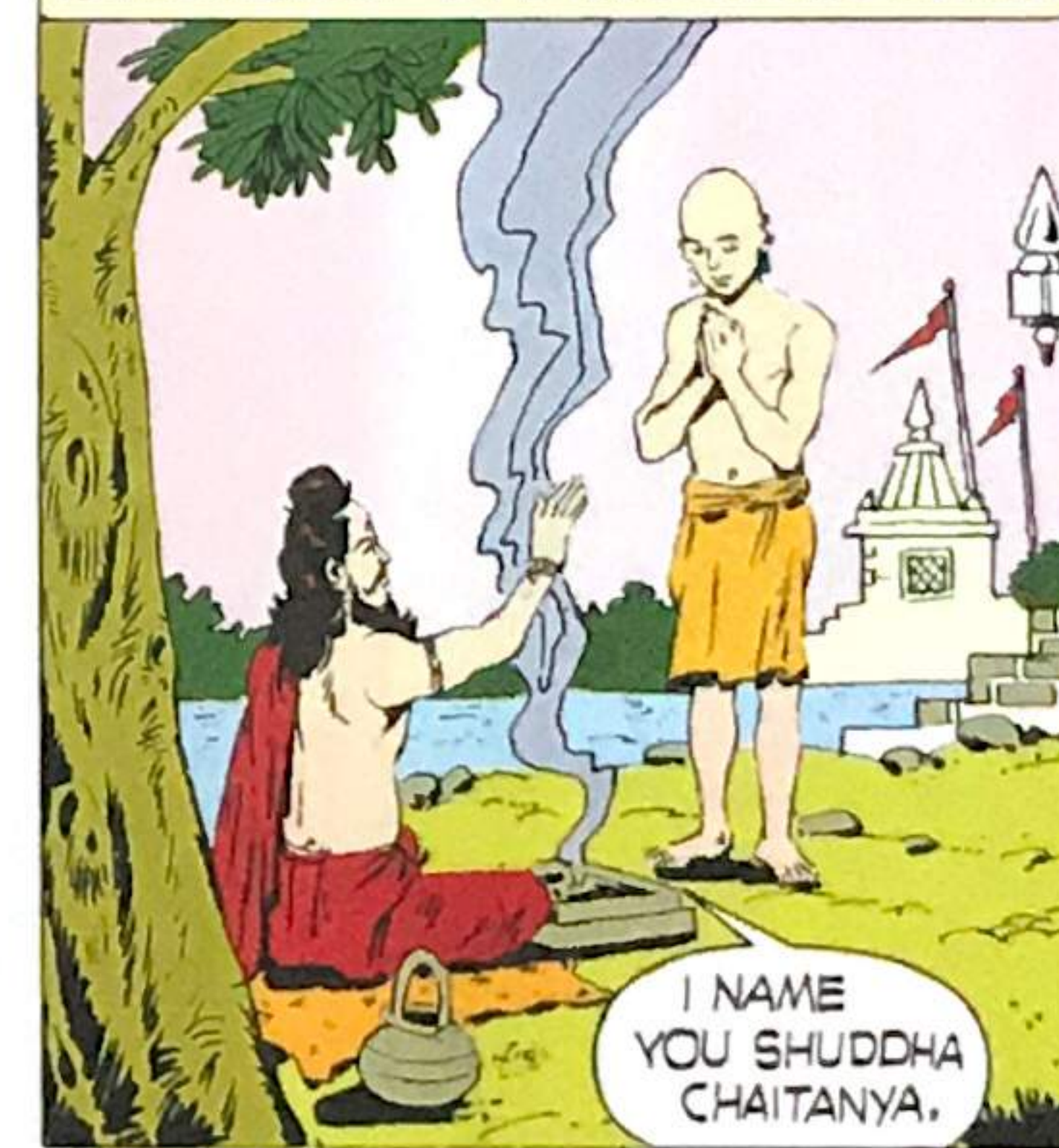


OF WHAT USE IS GOLD TO ONE WHO WOULD RENOUNCE THE WORLD? GIVE IT AWAY.



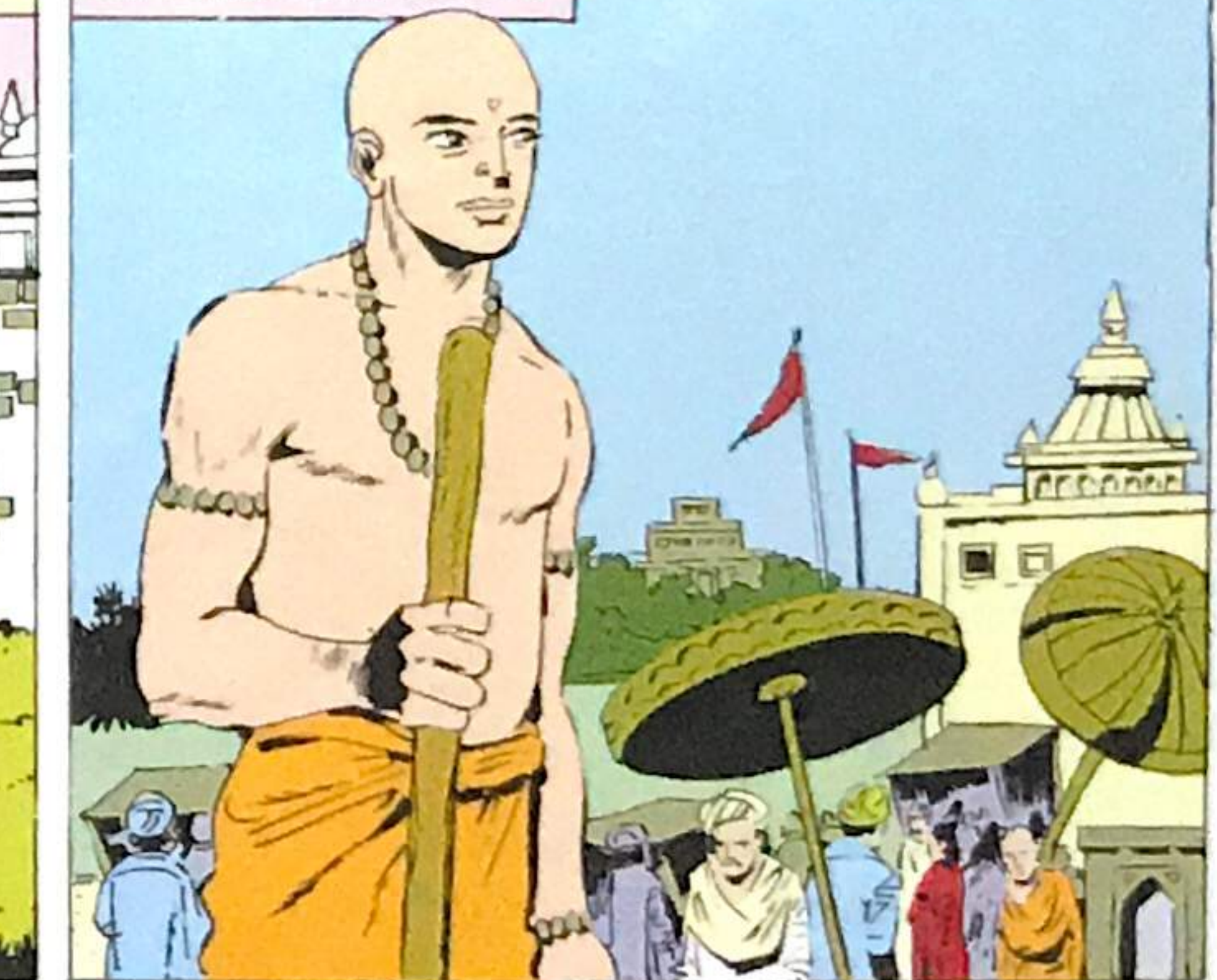
MOOLA GAVE AWAY ALL THAT HE HAD AND WENT ON.

LATER, HE WAS INITIATED AS NAISTHIK BRAHMACHARI * BY A WANDERING MONK.



I NAME YOU SHUDDHA CHAITANYA.

AFTER THIS, HE MOVED ABOUT WEARING ONLY A SAFFRON LOIN CLOTH.

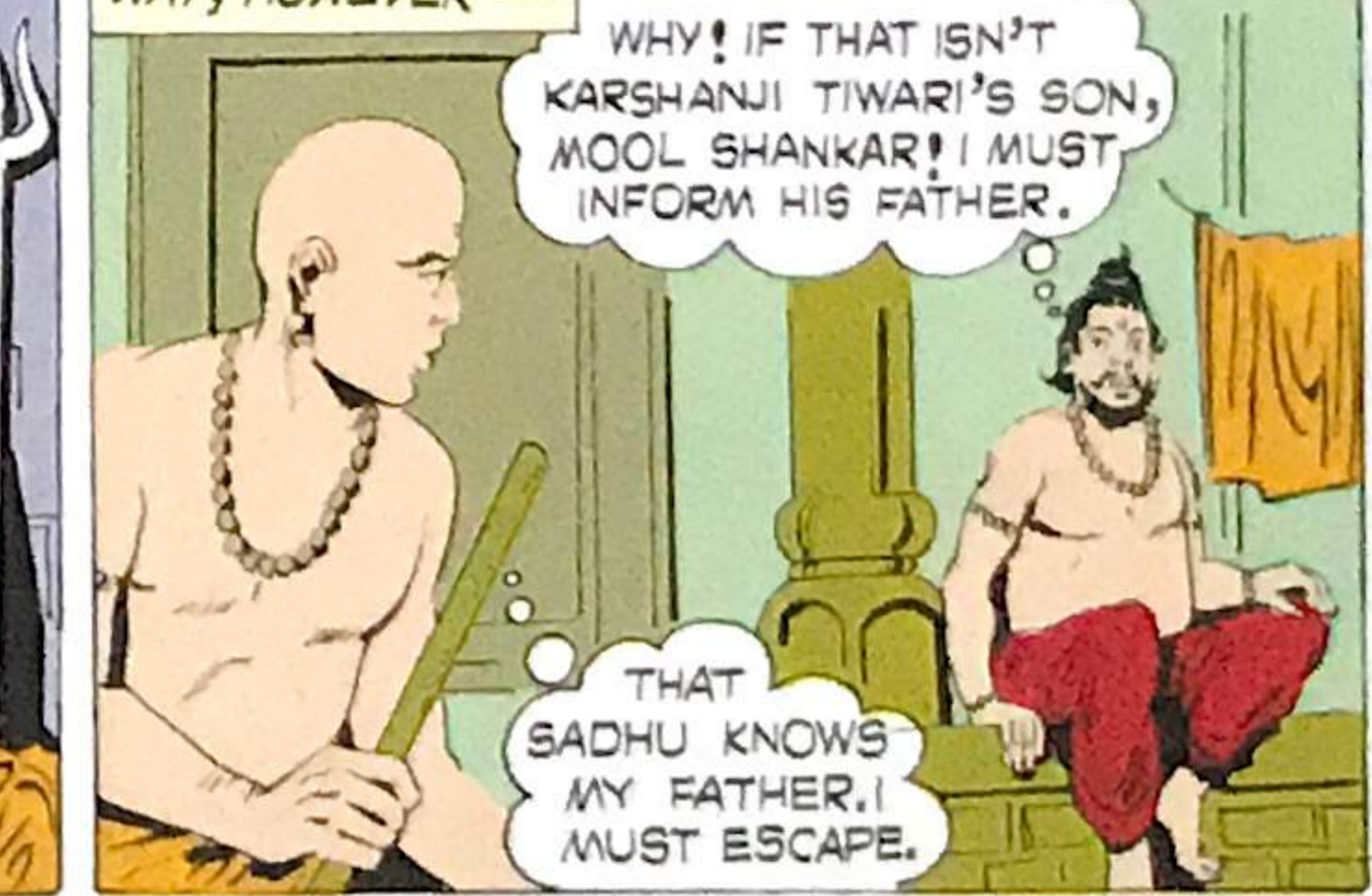


BUT HE HAD NOT YET FOUND A GURU. ONE DAY —

SADHUS FROM ALL OVER WESTERN INDIA WILL BE GOING TO SIDHPUR TO ATTEND THE FESTIVAL. PERHAPS YOU MAY MEET SOMEONE THERE.



MOOLA IMMEDIATELY SET OUT FOR SIDHPUR. ON THE WAY, HOWEVER —

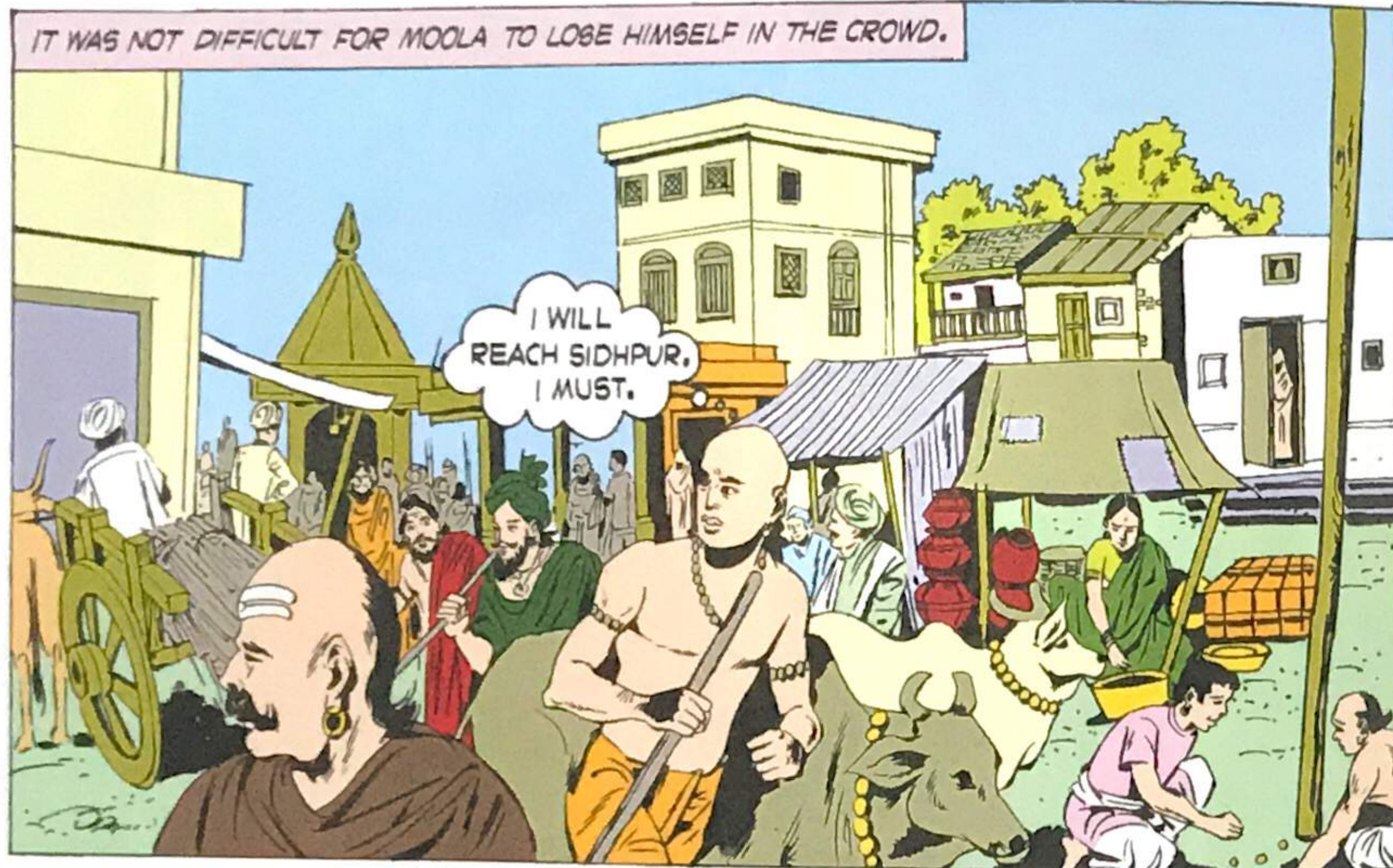


WHY! IF THAT ISN'T KARSHANJI TIWARI'S SON, MOOL SHANKAR! I MUST INFORM HIS FATHER.

THAT SADHU KNOWS MY FATHER. I MUST ESCAPE.

* ONE WHO TAKES THE VOW OF LIFELONG CELIBACY

IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT FOR MOOLA TO LOSE HIMSELF IN THE CROWD.



I WILL REACH SIDHPUR, I MUST.

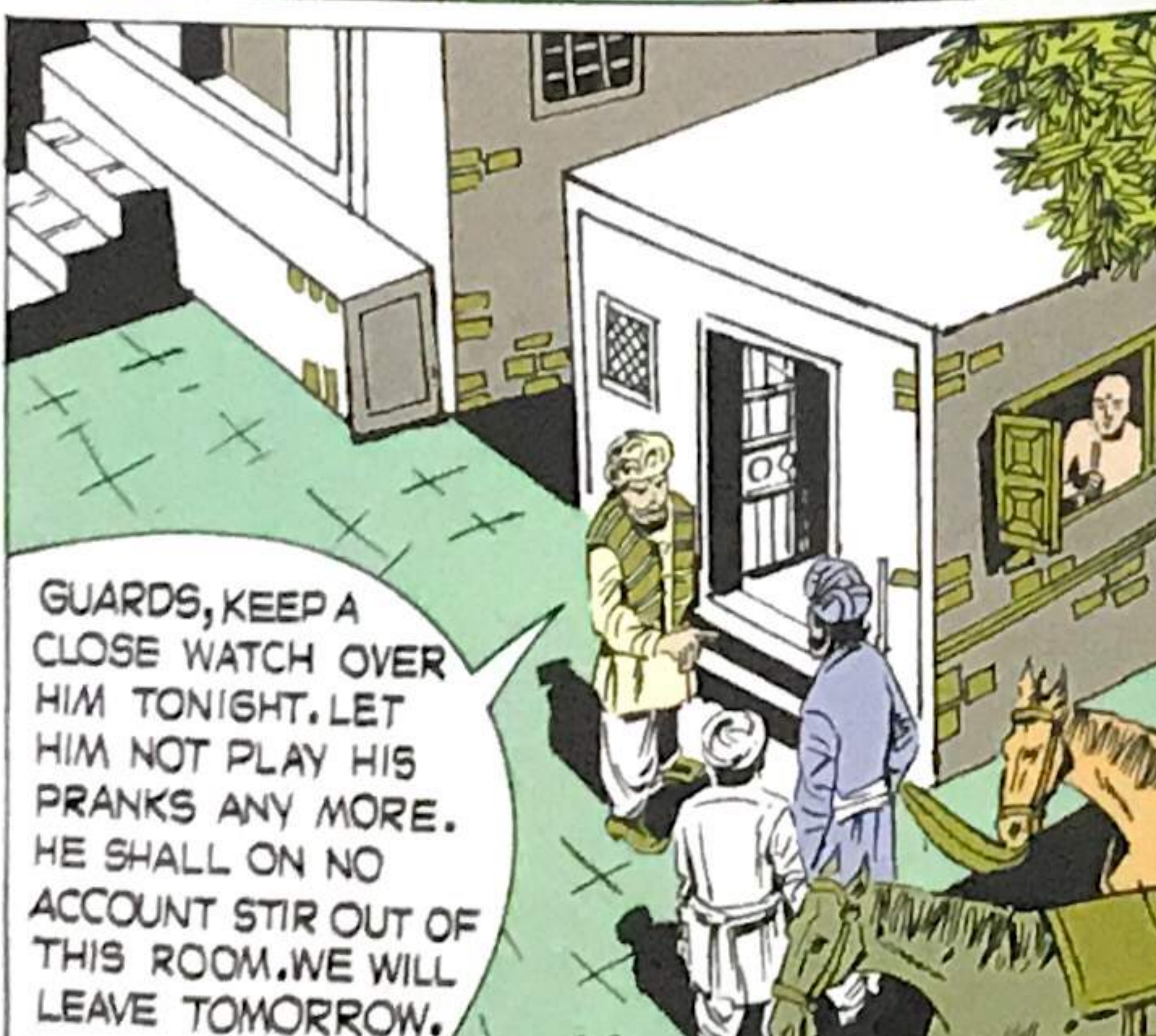
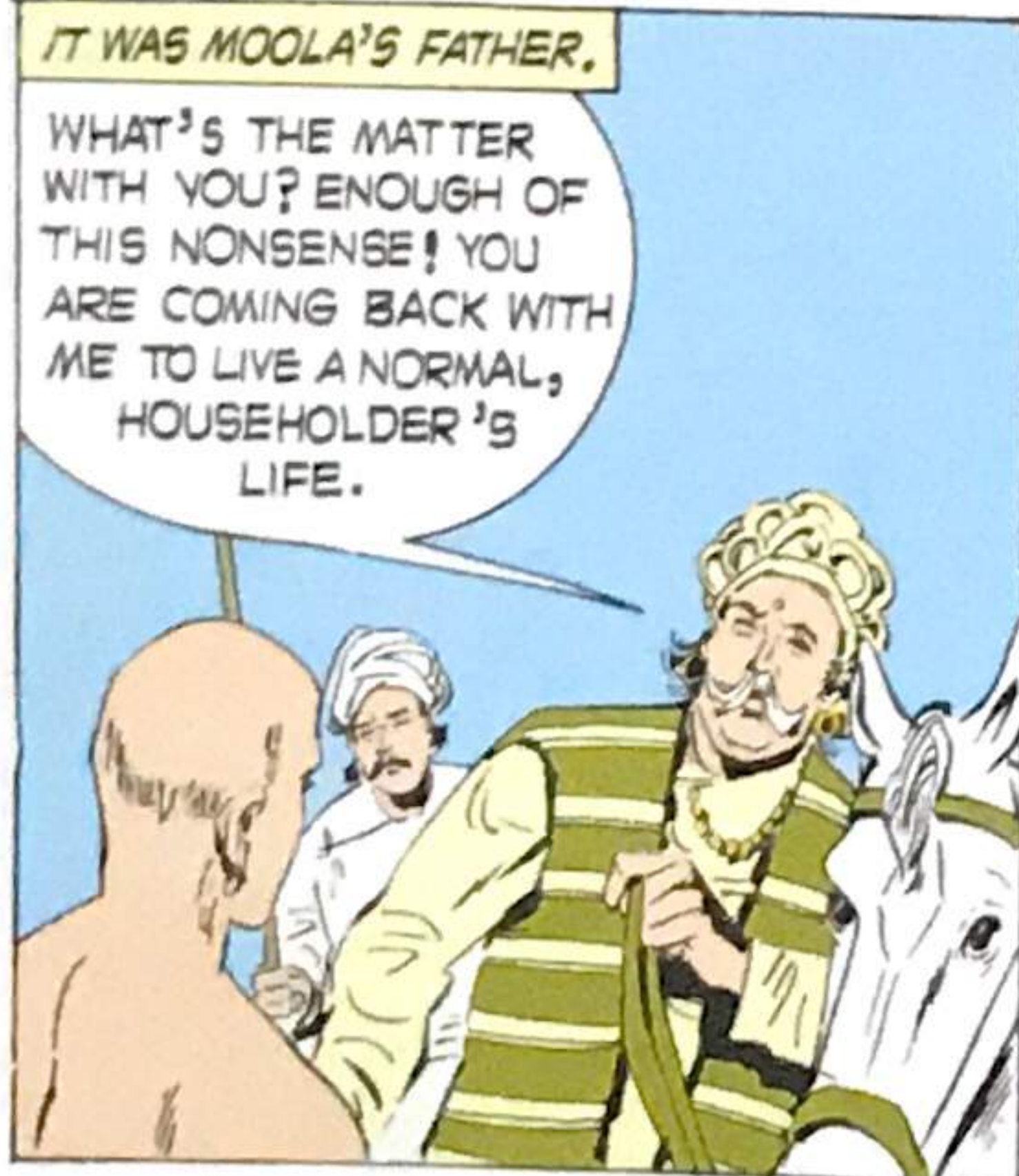


BUT, THAT EVENING AS HE WAS ABOUT TO ENTER A SHIVA TEMPLE —

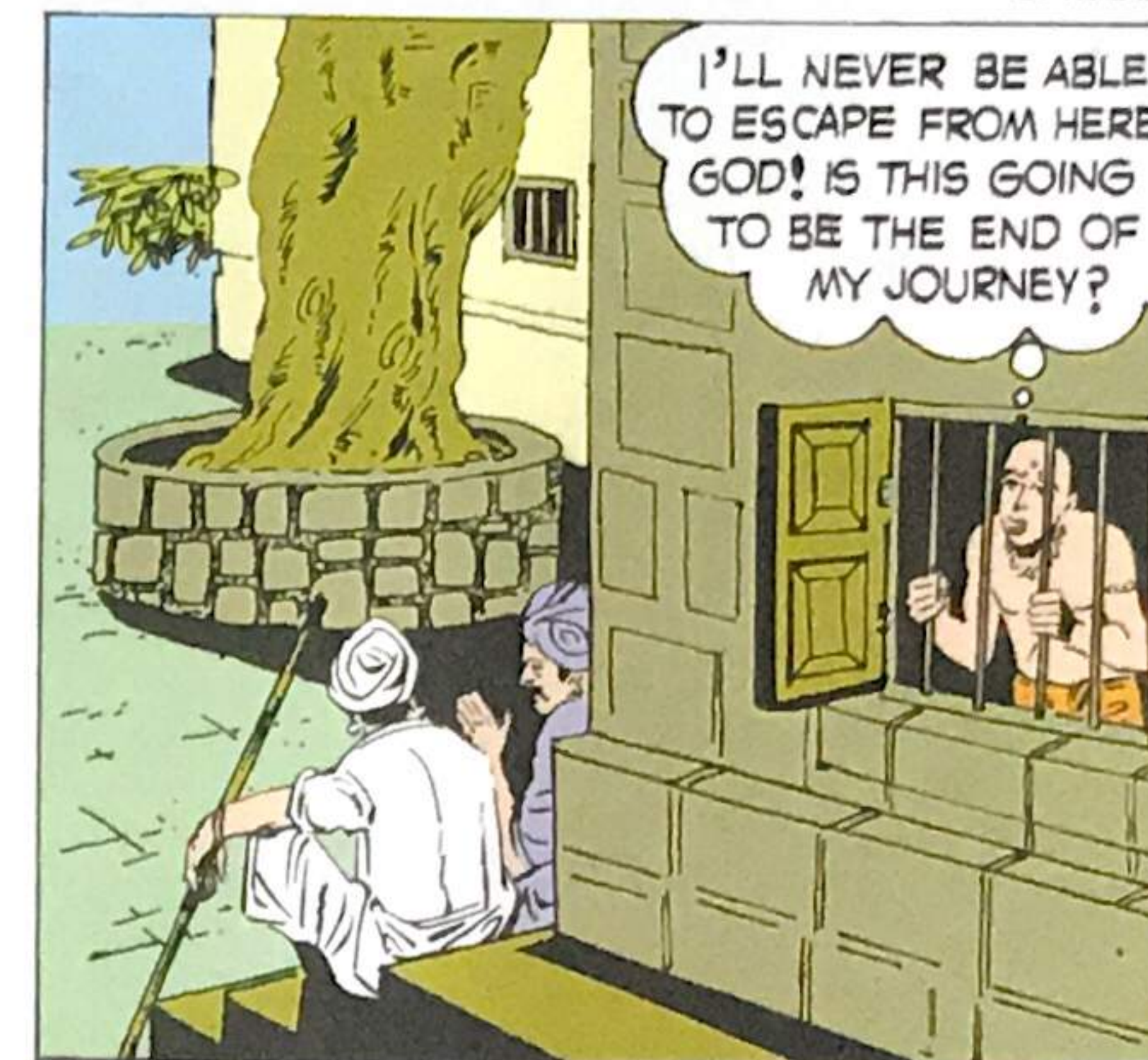
THERE HE IS! THE SADHU WAS RIGHT.

IT WAS MOOLA'S FATHER.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE! YOU ARE COMING BACK WITH ME TO LIVE A NORMAL, HOUSEHOLDER'S LIFE.



GUARDS, KEEP A CLOSE WATCH OVER HIM TONIGHT. LET HIM NOT PLAY HIS PRANKS ANY MORE. HE SHALL ON NO ACCOUNT STIR OUT OF THIS ROOM. WE WILL LEAVE TOMORROW.

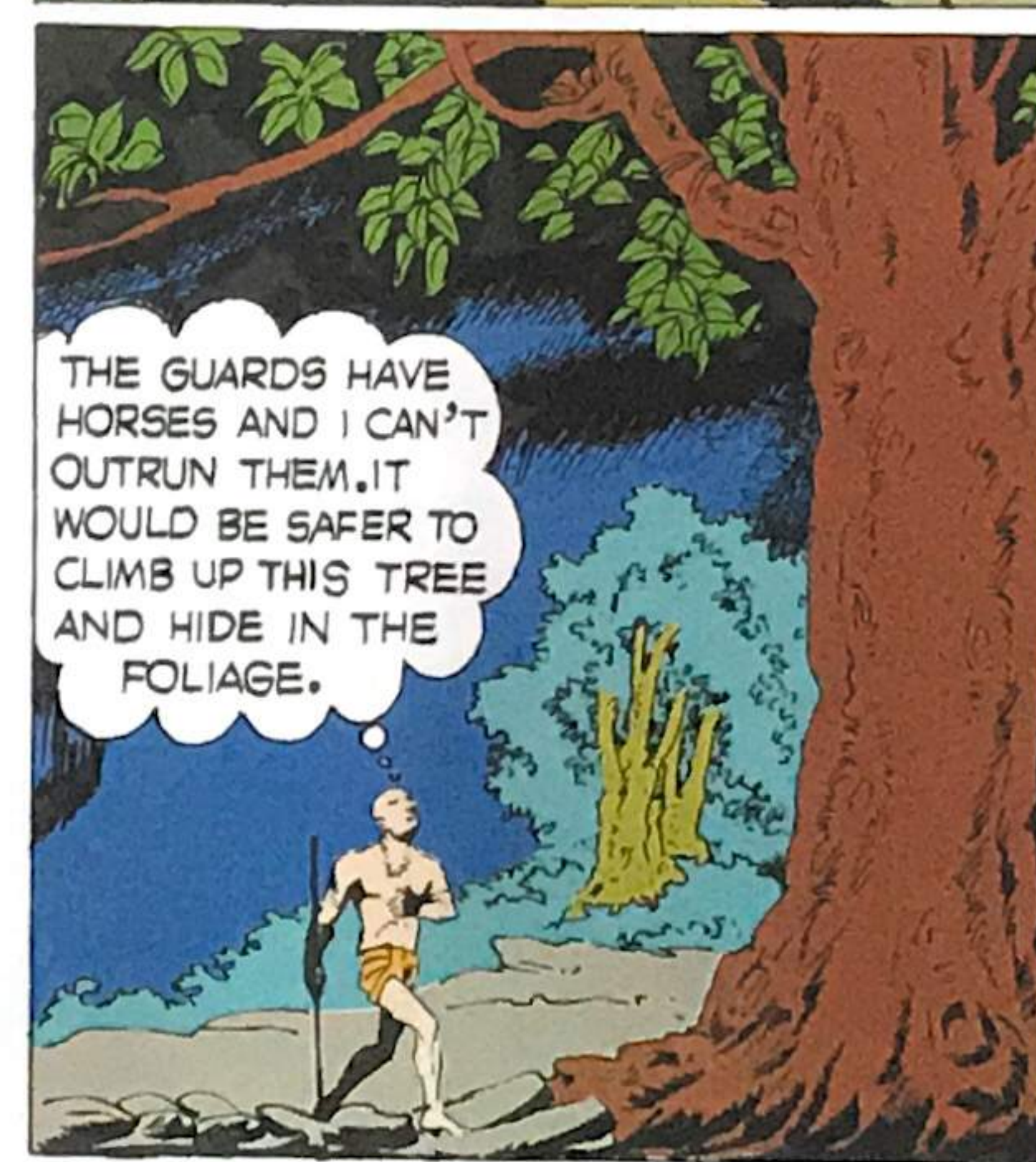


I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM HERE. GOD! IS THIS GOING TO BE THE END OF MY JOURNEY?

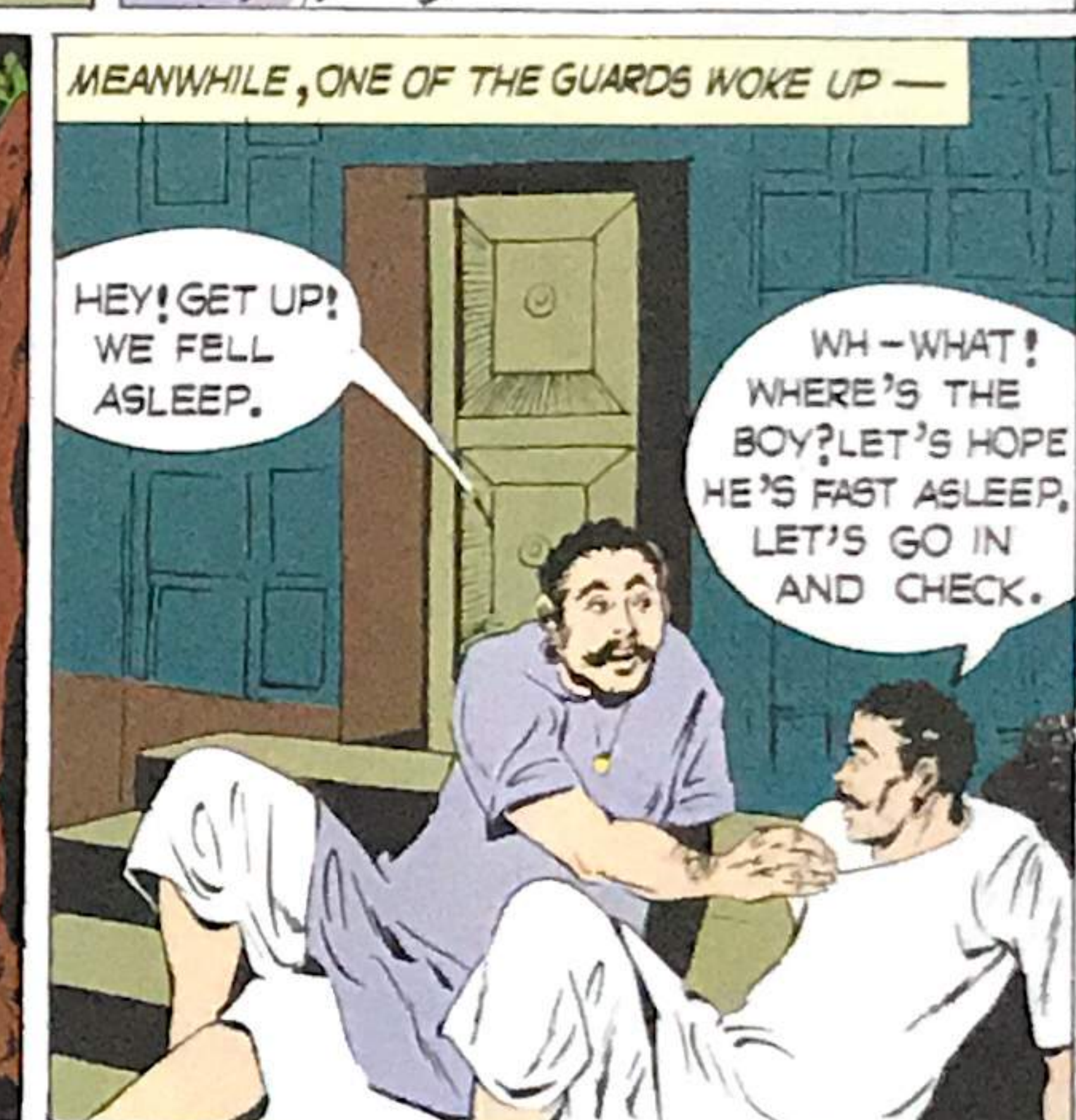


BUT LUCKILY FOR MOOLA, THE GUARDS FELL ASLEEP.

GOD! PLEASE DON'T LET THEM WAKE UP TILL I'M FAR AWAY.



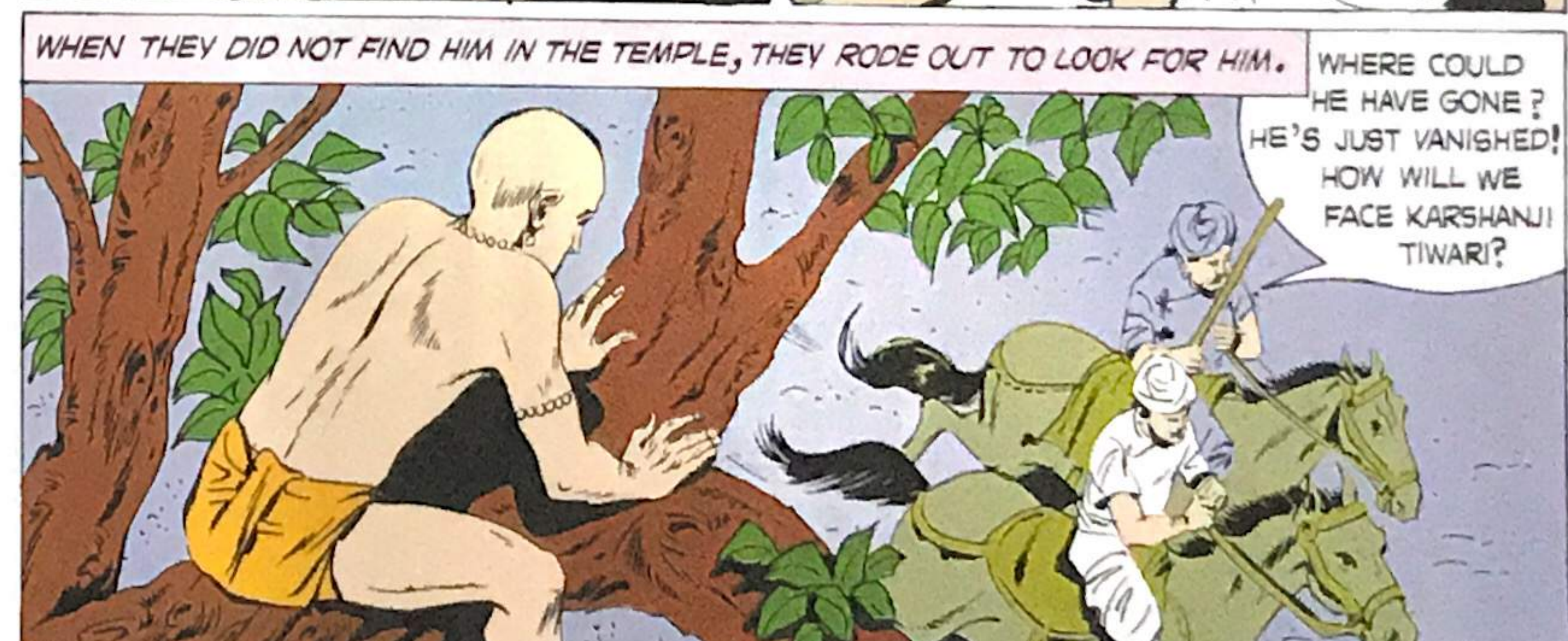
THE GUARDS HAVE HORSES AND I CAN'T OUTFRAN THEM. IT WOULD BE SAFER TO CLIMB UP THIS TREE AND HIDE IN THE FOLIAGE.



MEANWHILE, ONE OF THE GUARDS WOKE UP —

HEY! GET UP! WE FELL ASLEEP.

WH—WHAT! WHERE'S THE BOY? LET'S HOPE HE'S FAST ASLEEP. LET'S GO IN AND CHECK.

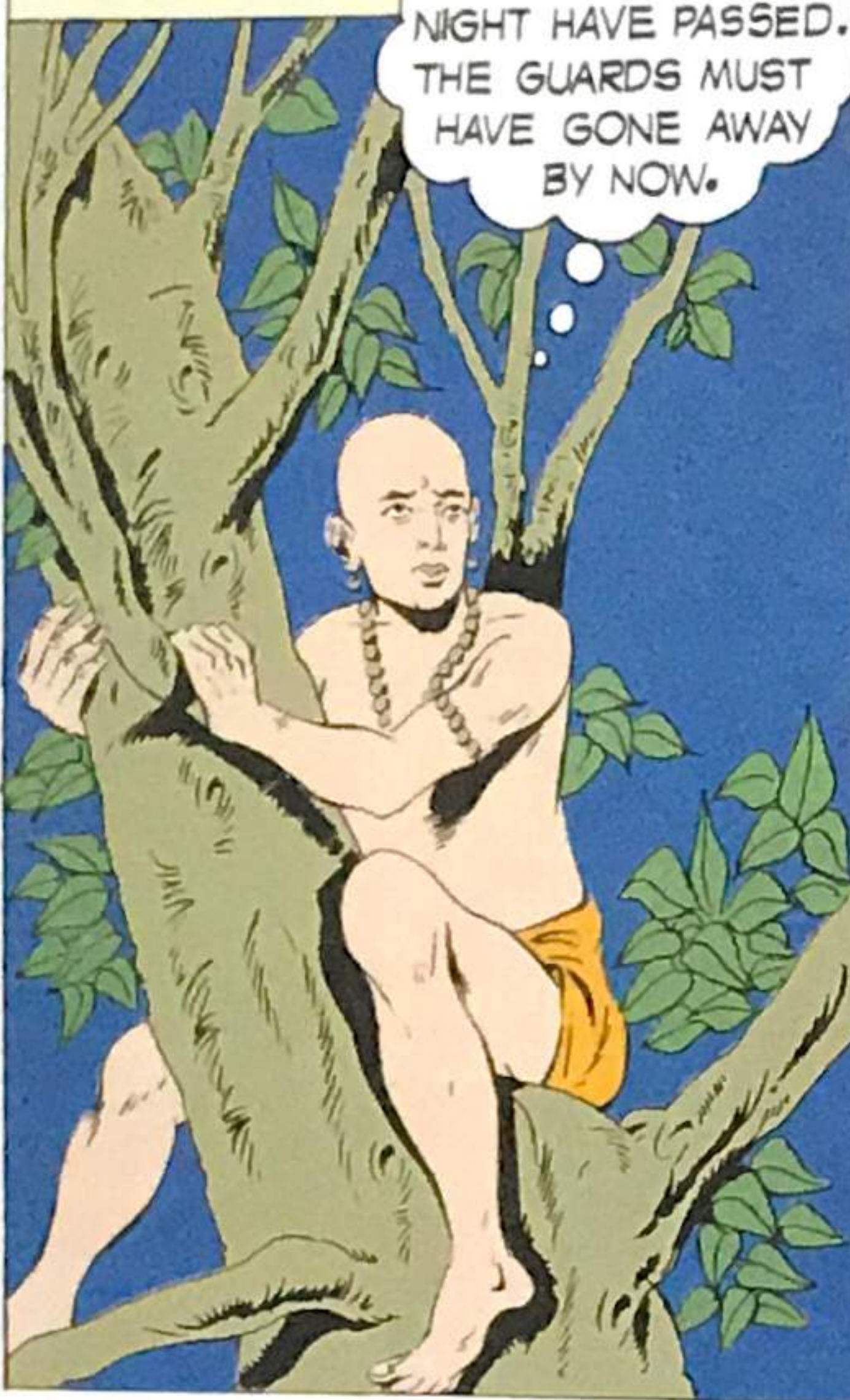


WHEN THEY DID NOT FIND HIM IN THE TEMPLE, THEY RODE OUT TO LOOK FOR HIM.

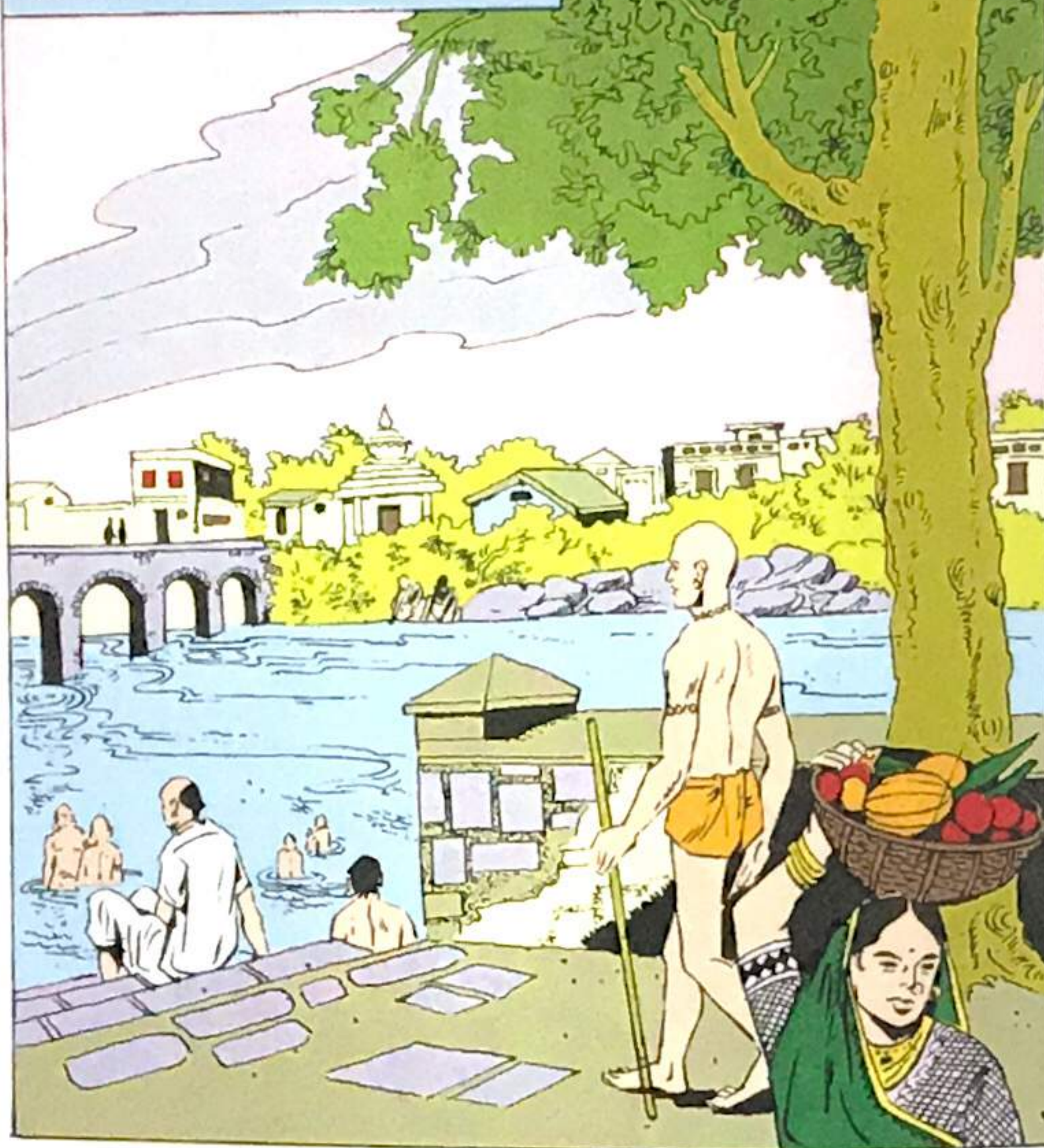
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE? HE'S JUST VANISHED! HOW WILL WE FACE KARSHANU TIWARI?

THE NEXT DAY —

A WHOLE DAY AND NIGHT HAVE PASSED. THE GUARDS MUST HAVE GONE AWAY BY NOW.



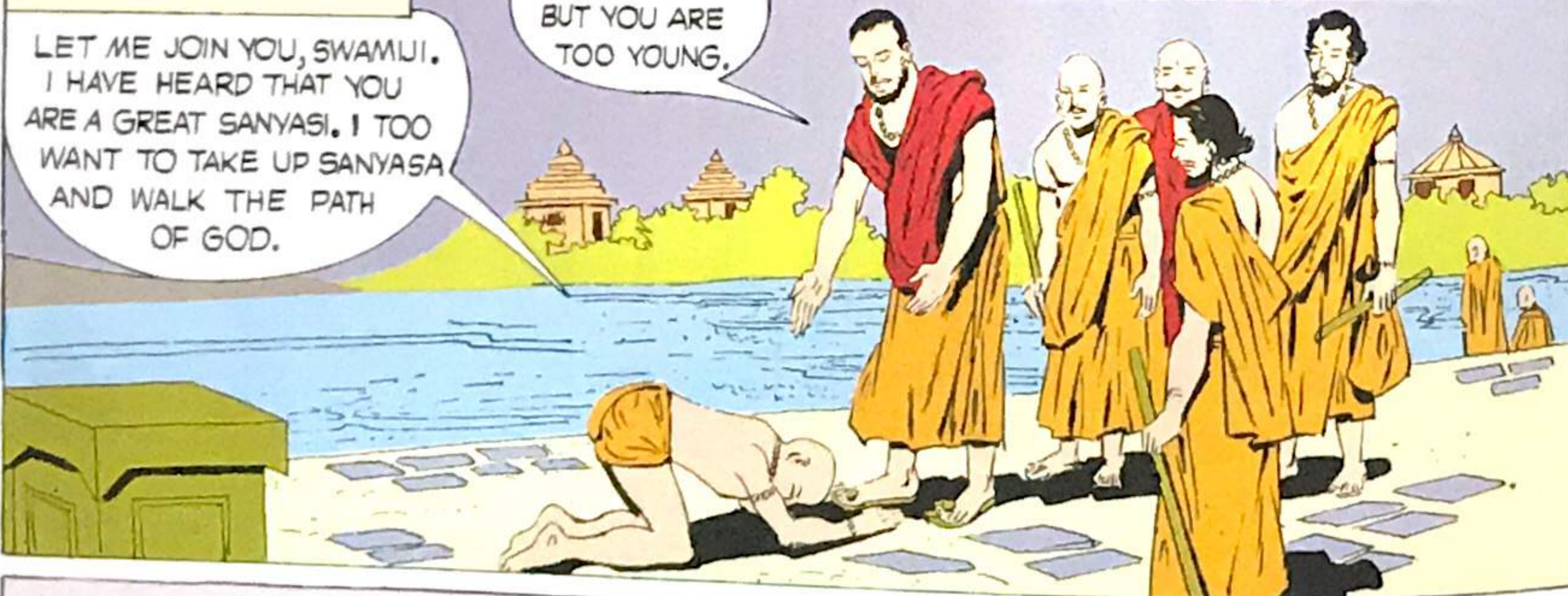
AFTER THAT, MOOLA WANDERED THROUGH AHMEDABAD, BARODA AND OTHER PLACES.



THEN ONE DAY, ON THE BANK OF THE NARMADA, HE CAME ACROSS POORNANANDA SWAMI'S PARTY ON ITS WAY TO DWARAKA.

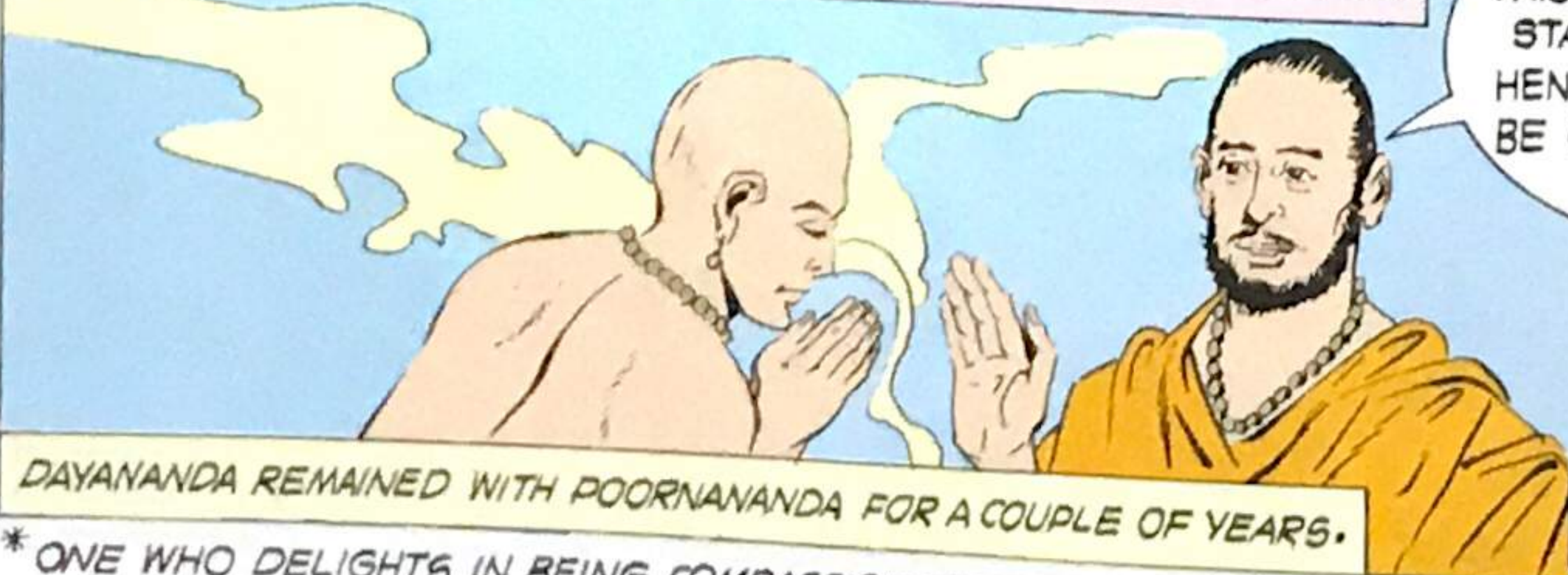
LET ME JOIN YOU, SWAMIJI. I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU ARE A GREAT SANYASI. I TOO WANT TO TAKE UP SANYASA AND WALK THE PATH OF GOD.

BUT YOU ARE TOO YOUNG.



AT LAST, AFTER MUCH ENTREATY, POORNANANDA AGREED TO INITIATE HIM.

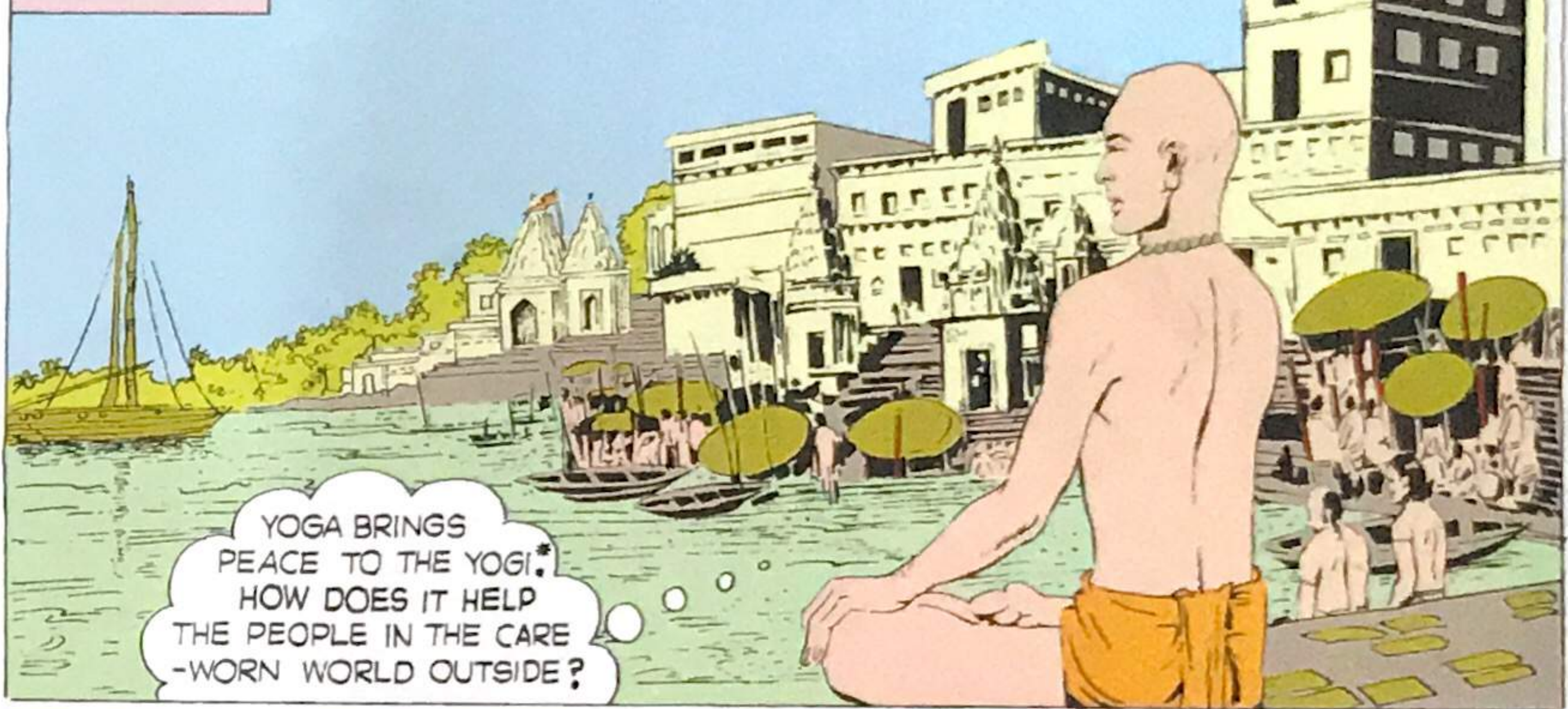
THIS CUTS OFF YOUR PAST STATUS AND RELATIONS. HENCEFORTH, YOU SHALL BE CALLED DAYANANDA SARASWATI.



DAYANANDA REMAINED WITH POORNANANDA FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS.

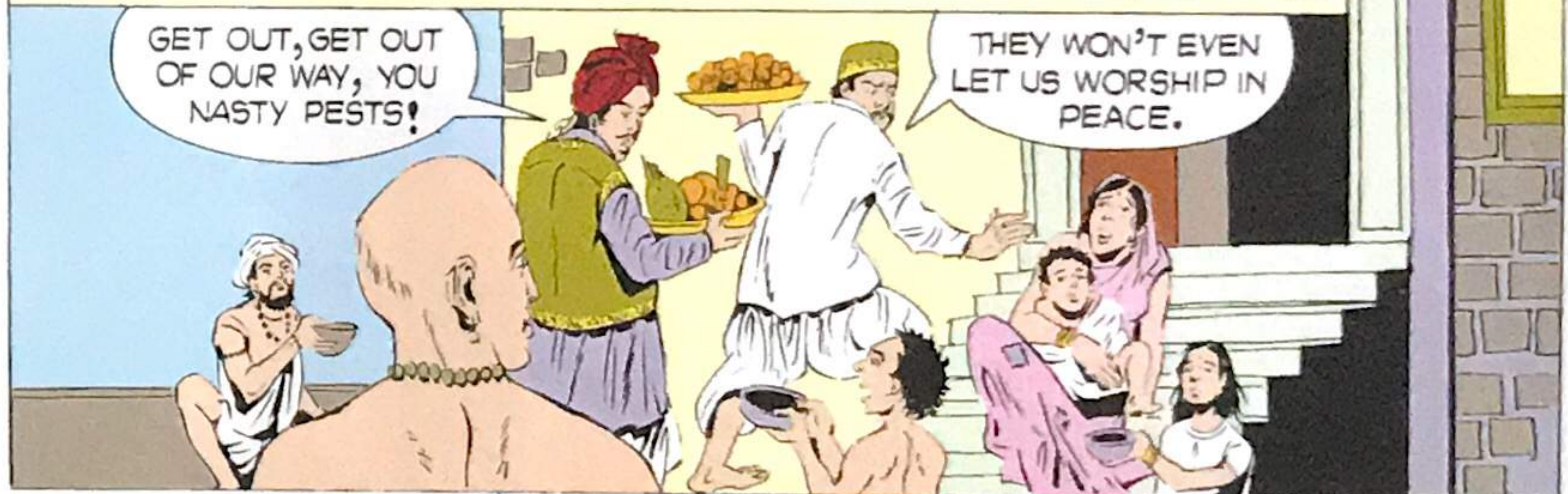
* ONE WHO DELIGHTS IN BEING COMPASSIONATE. 12

HE THEN PROCEEDED TO KASHI, A GREAT CENTRE OF LEARNING IN THOSE DAYS. THERE HE LEARNT YOGA. BUT —



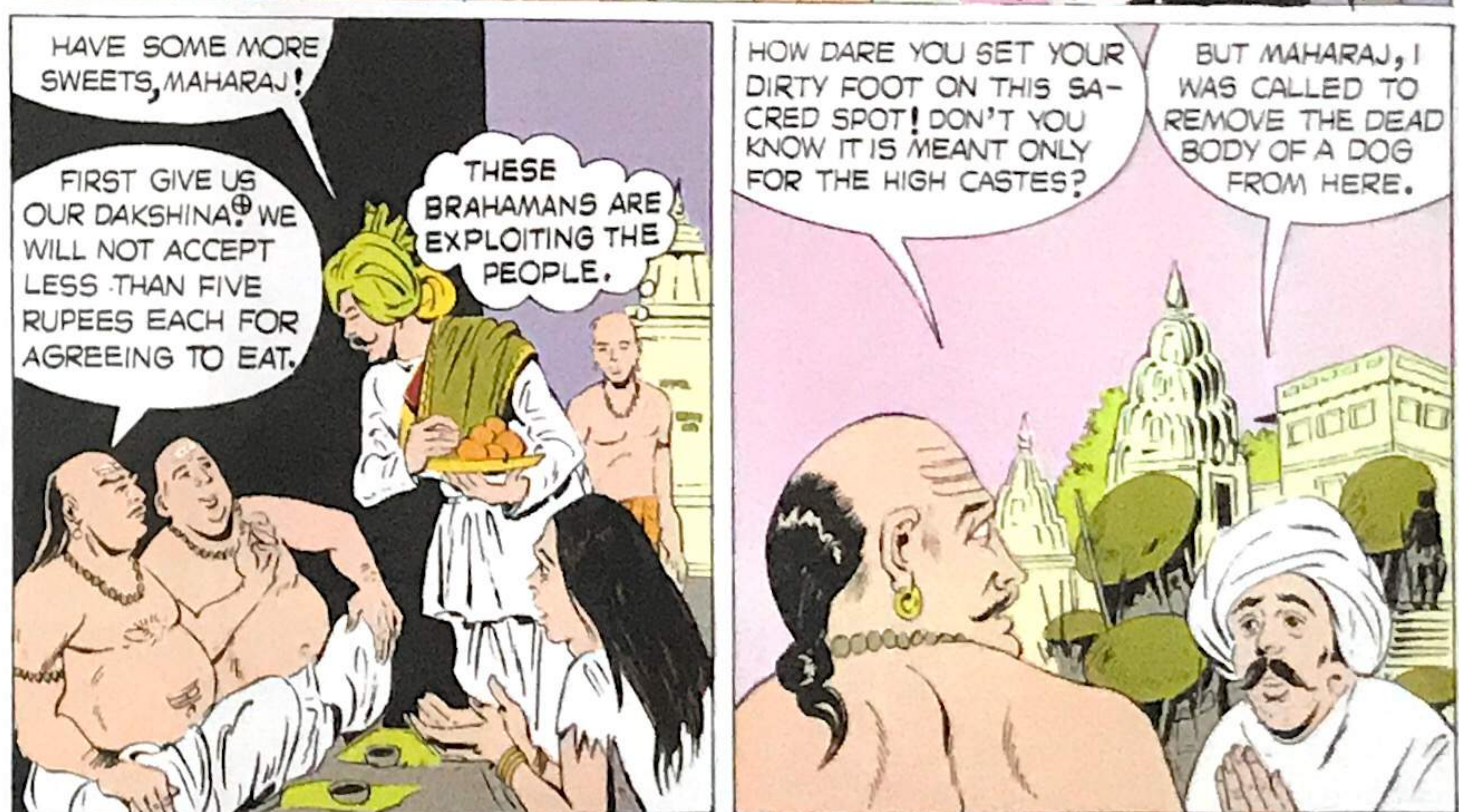
YOGA BRINGS PEACE TO THE YOGI. HOW DOES IT HELP THE PEOPLE IN THE CARE-WORN WORLD OUTSIDE?

HE WAS DISTRESSED BY THE POVERTY AND INTOLERANCE HE SAW ALL AROUND HIM.



GET OUT, GET OUT OF OUR WAY, YOU NASTY PESTS!

THEY WON'T EVEN LET US WORSHIP IN PEACE.



HAVE SOME MORE SWEETS, MAHARAJ!

FIRST GIVE US OUR DAKSHINA. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT LESS THAN FIVE RUPEES EACH FOR AGREEING TO EAT.

THESE BRAHMANAS ARE EXPLOITING THE PEOPLE.

HOW DARE YOU SET YOUR DIRTY FOOT ON THIS SACRED SPOT! DON'T YOU KNOW IT IS MEANT ONLY FOR THE HIGH CASTES?

BUT MAHARAJ, I WAS CALLED TO REMOVE THE DEAD BODY OF A DOG FROM HERE.

* ONE WHO PRACTISES YOGA. † OFFERINGS GIVEN TO BRAHMANAS.



SHE'S REMOVING EVEN THE MISERABLE RAG THAT COVERS HER DEAD CHILD! MY GOD! WHAT POVERTY!

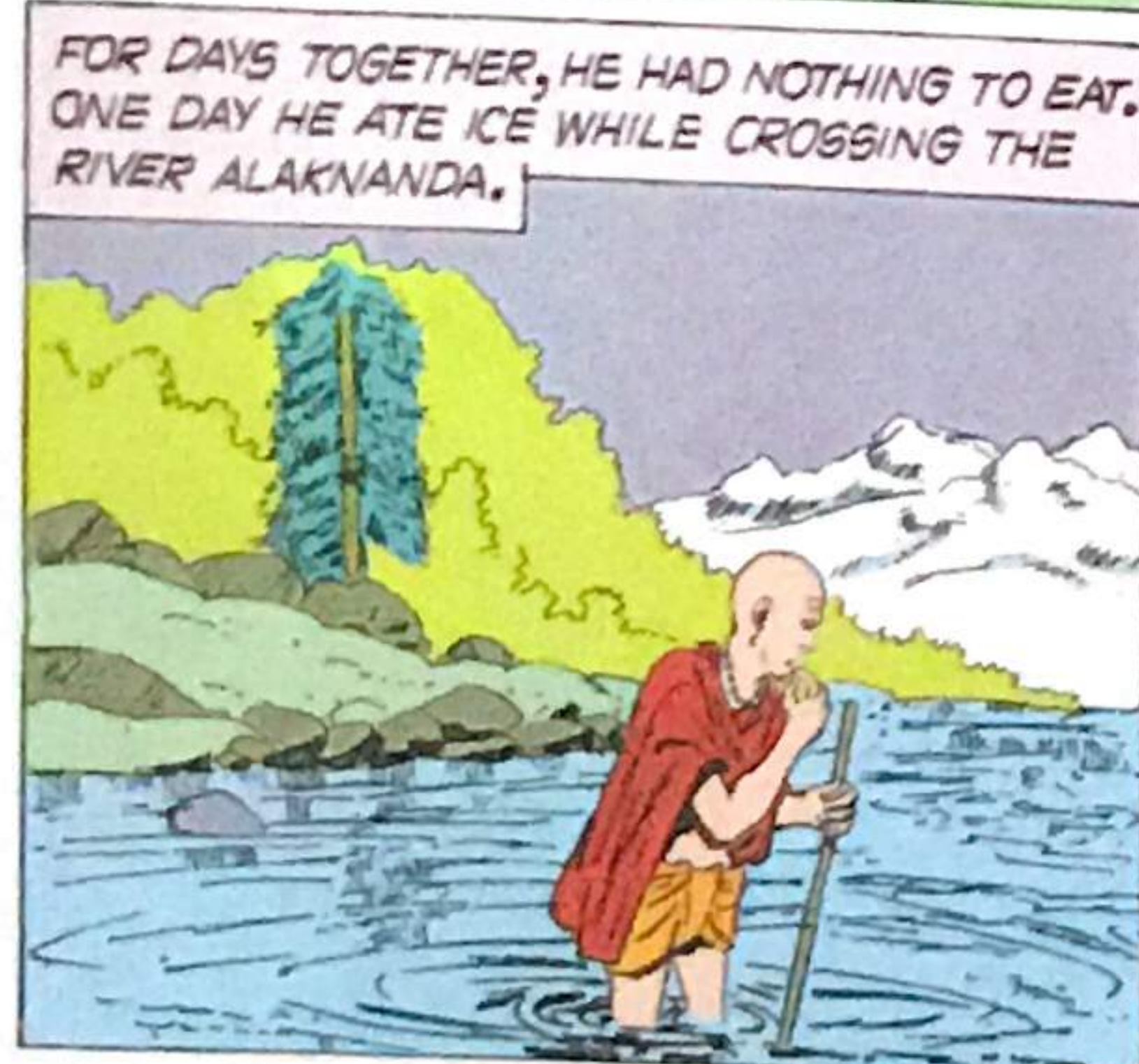


SURELY GOD CANNOT BE SO UNJUST. ONLY TRUE KNOWLEDGE CAN SET MY MIND AT REST.

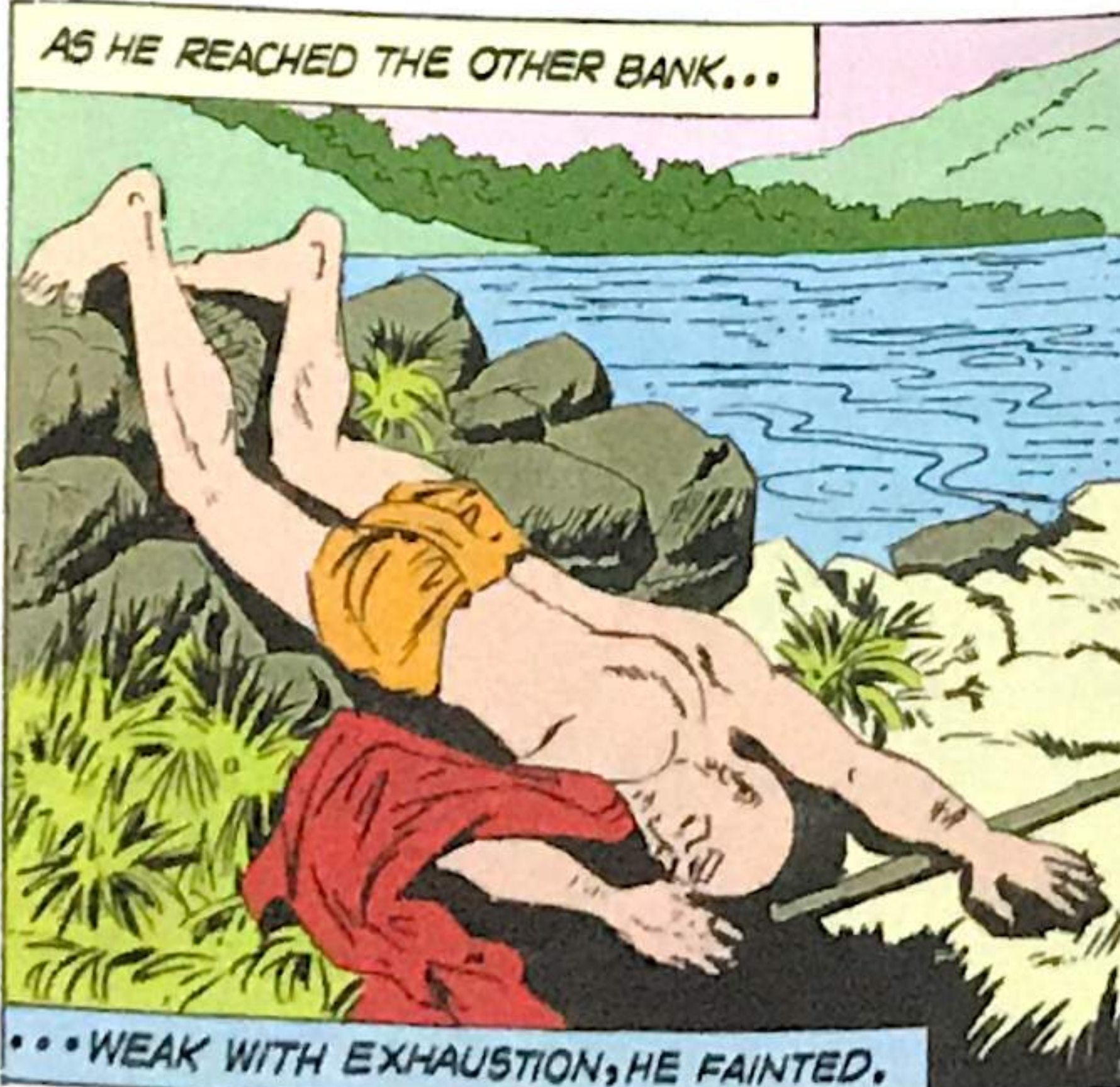
HE WANDERED ABOUT IN KASHMIR AND IN THE HIMALAYAS SEEKING ENLIGHTENMENT.



AS HE REACHED THE OTHER BANK...

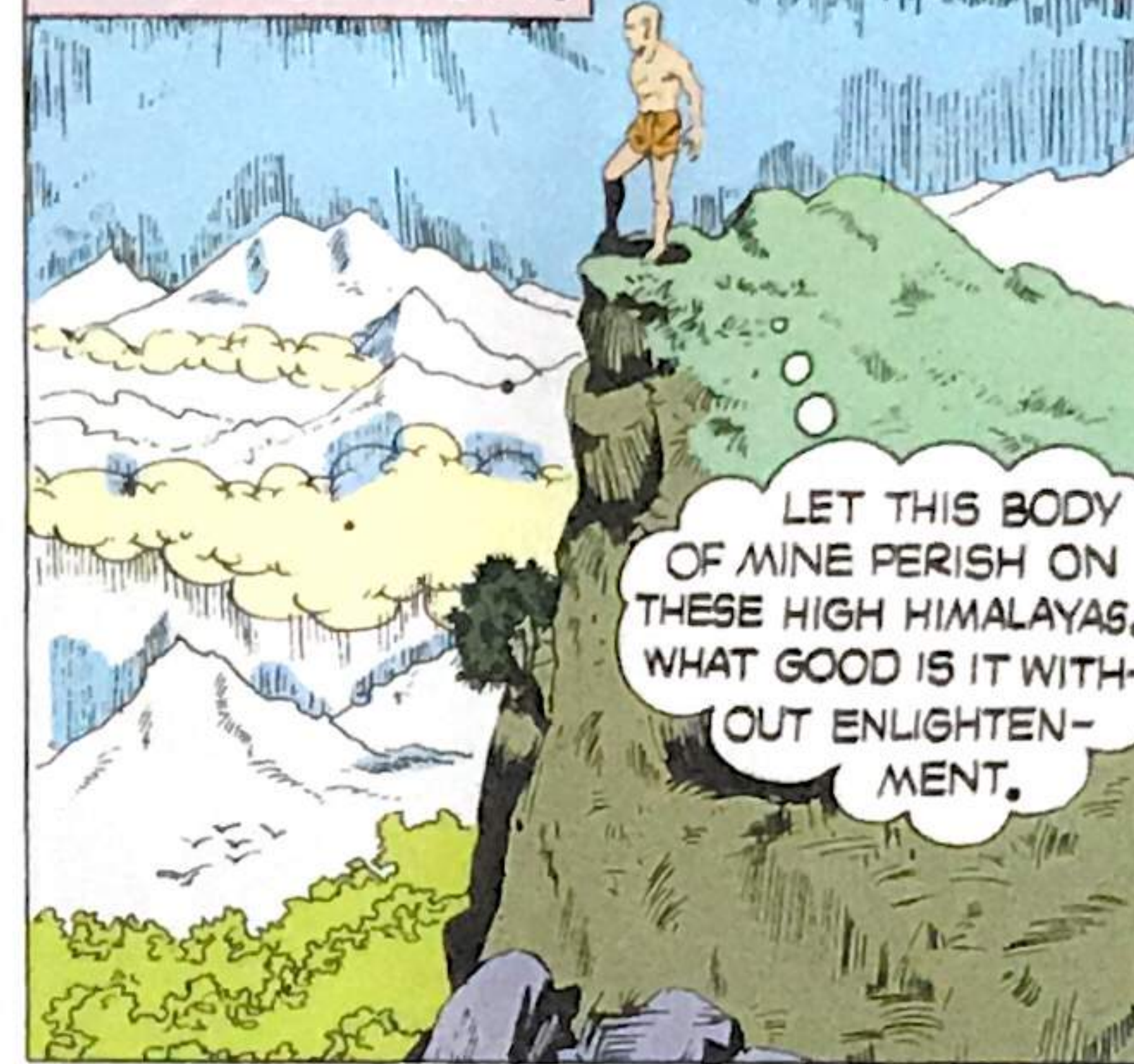


FOR DAYS TOGETHER, HE HAD NOTHING TO EAT. ONE DAY HE ATE ICE WHILE CROSSING THE RIVER ALAKNANDA.



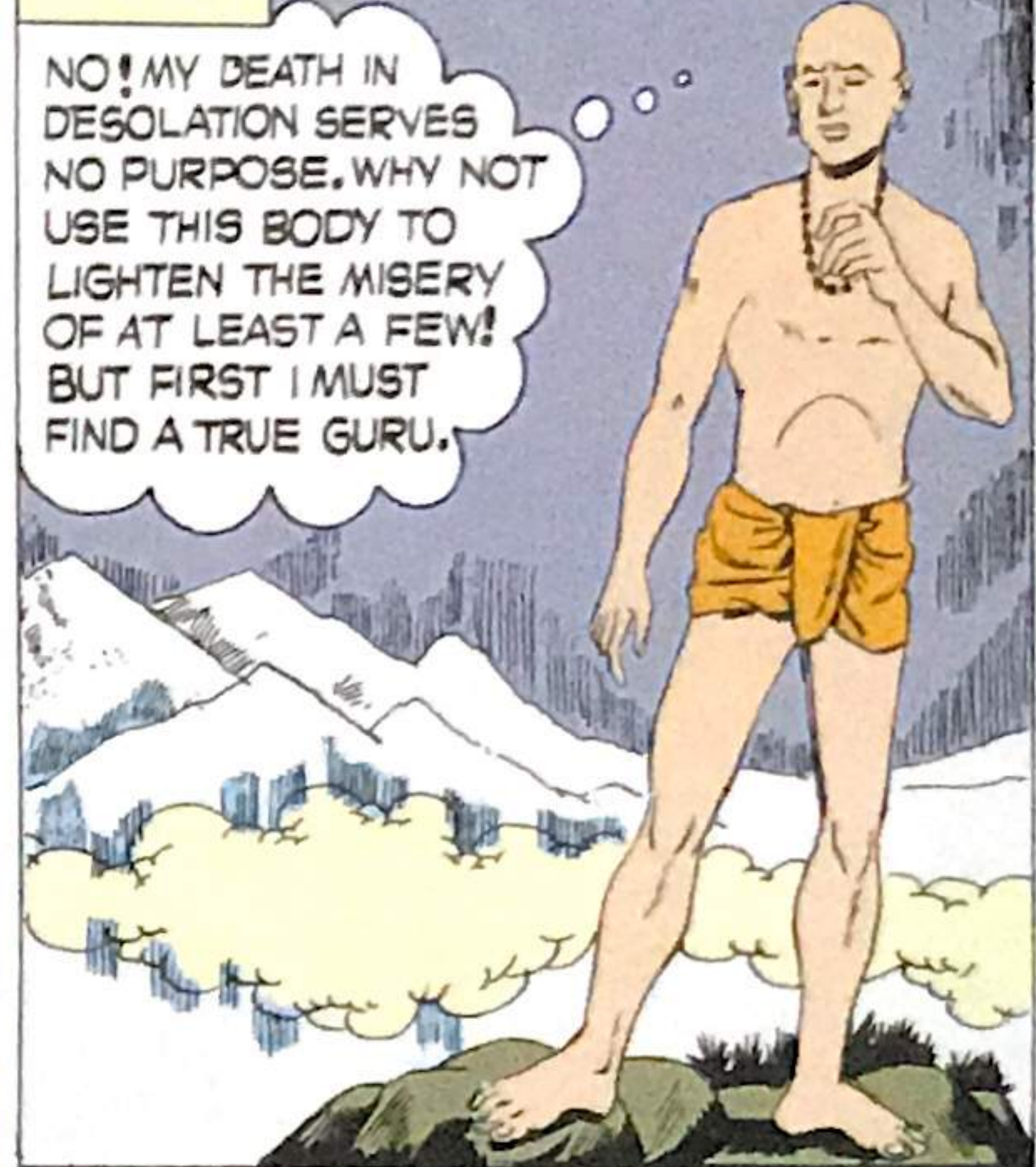
...WEAK WITH EXHAUSTION, HE FAINTED.

WHEN HE CAME TO HIS SENSES, HE WALKED TO THE EDGE OF A STEEP CLIFF.



LET THIS BODY OF MINE PERISH ON THESE HIGH HIMALAYAS. WHAT GOOD IS IT WITHOUT ENLIGHTENMENT.

AS HE WAS ABOUT TO JUMP FROM THE CLIFF HOWEVER—



NO! MY DEATH IN DESOLATION SERVES NO PURPOSE. WHY NOT USE THIS BODY TO LIGHTEN THE MISERY OF AT LEAST A FEW! BUT FIRST I MUST FIND A TRUE GURU.

HIS SEARCH BROUGHT HIM TO THE PROSPEROUS OKHI MATH. THE CHIEF PRIEST OF THE MATH WAS IMPRESSED BY THE YOUNG MAN IN OCHRE CLOTHES.



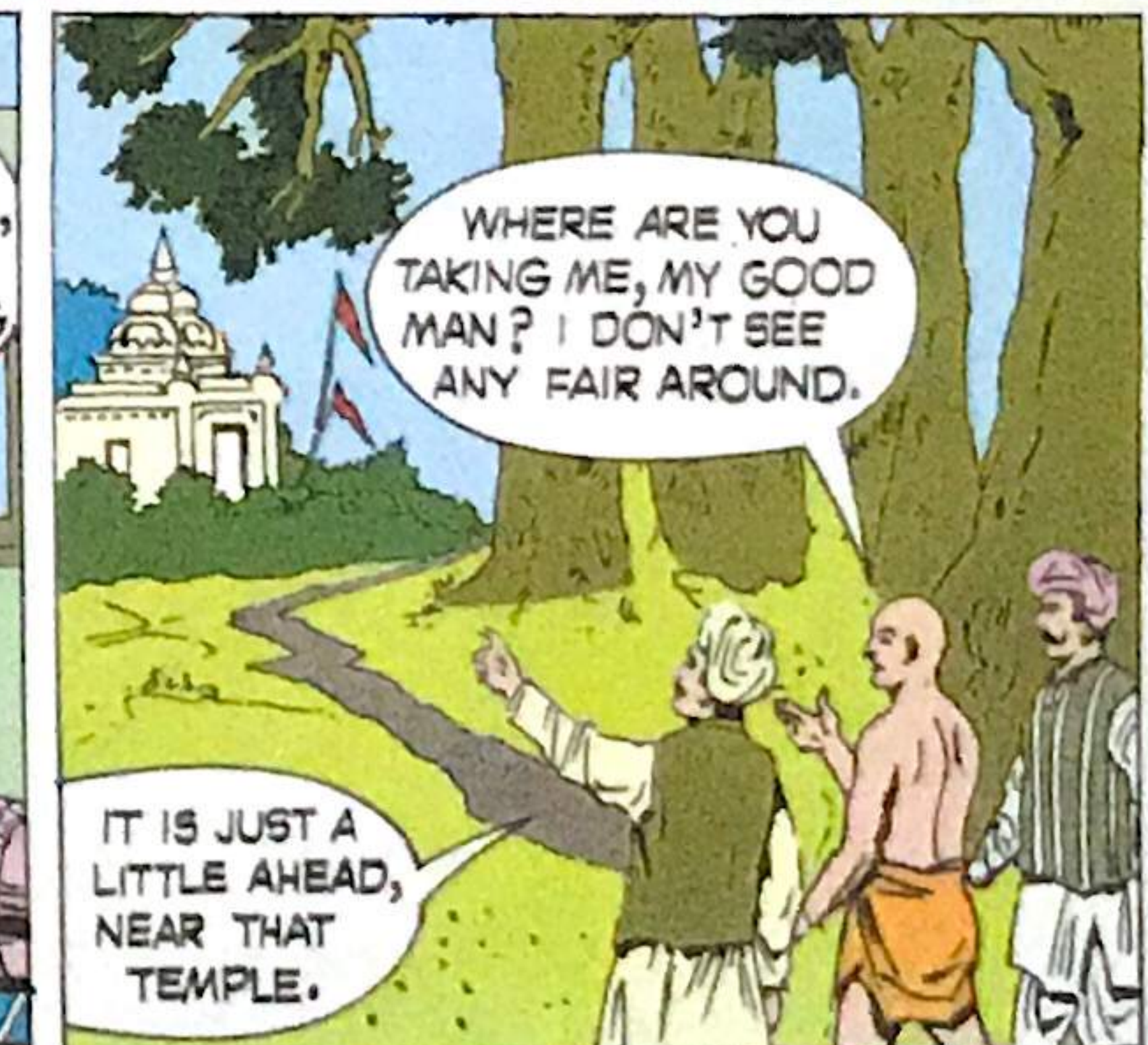
DAYANANDA, IF YOU STAY HERE, I SHALL MAKE YOU MY CHIEF DISCIPLE. ALL THE WEALTH AND GLORY OF THIS MATH SHALL BE YOURS ONE DAY.

THANK YOU, MAHANTJI. BUT IT IS NOT WEALTH AND GLORY THAT I SEEK.

AS HE WANDERED FROM ONE VILLAGE TO ANOTHER IN SEARCH OF A GURU, ONE DAY—

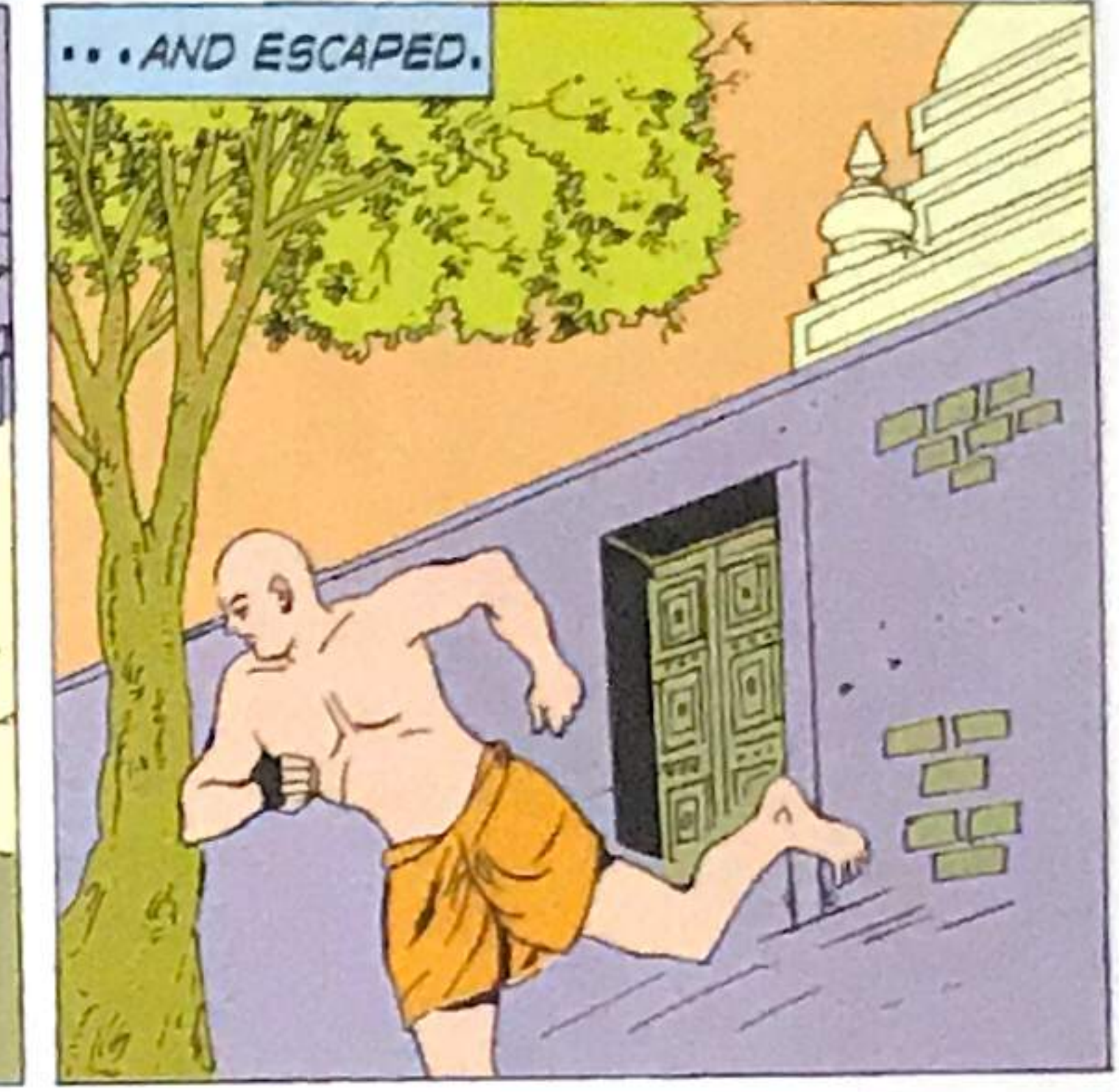
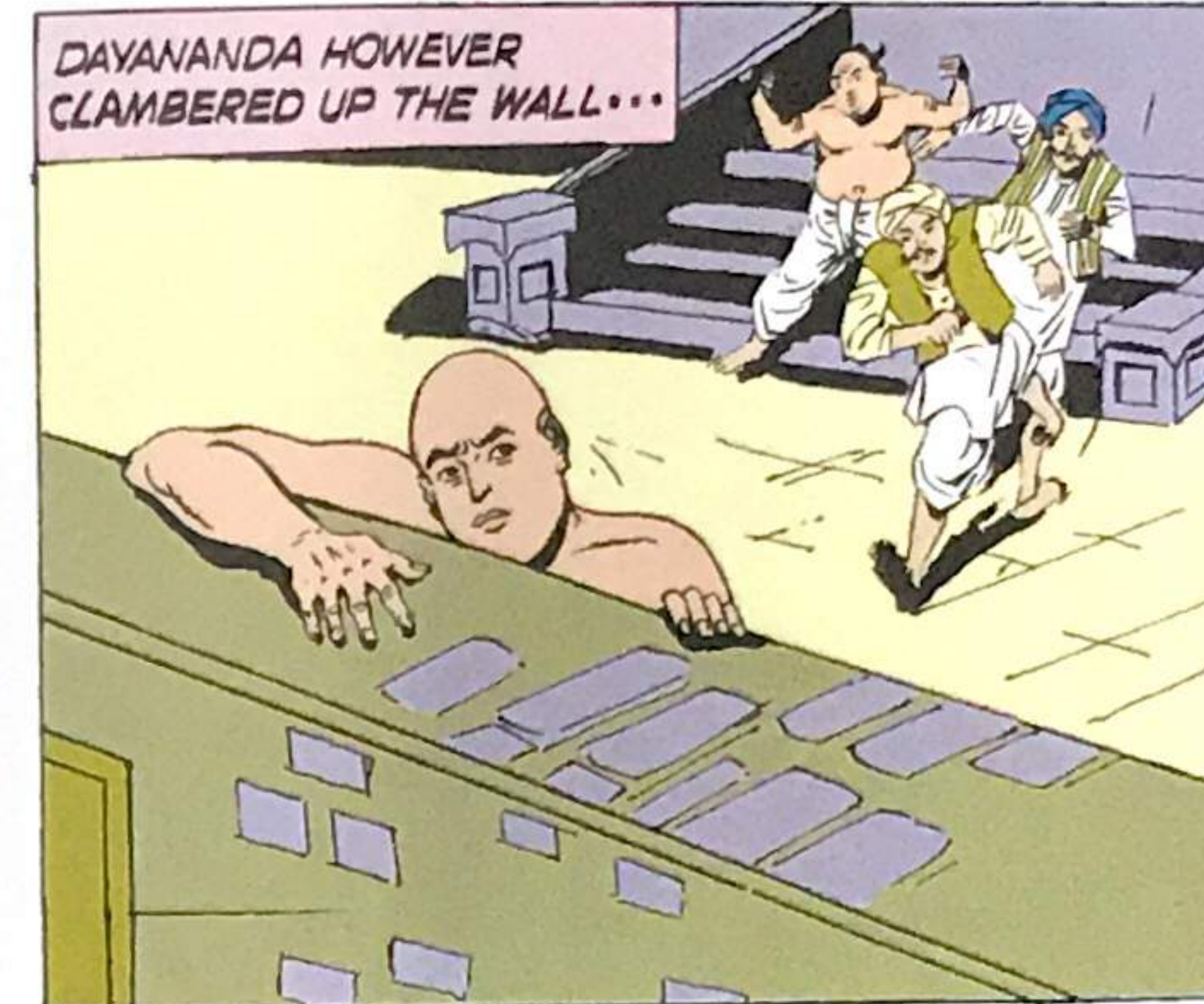
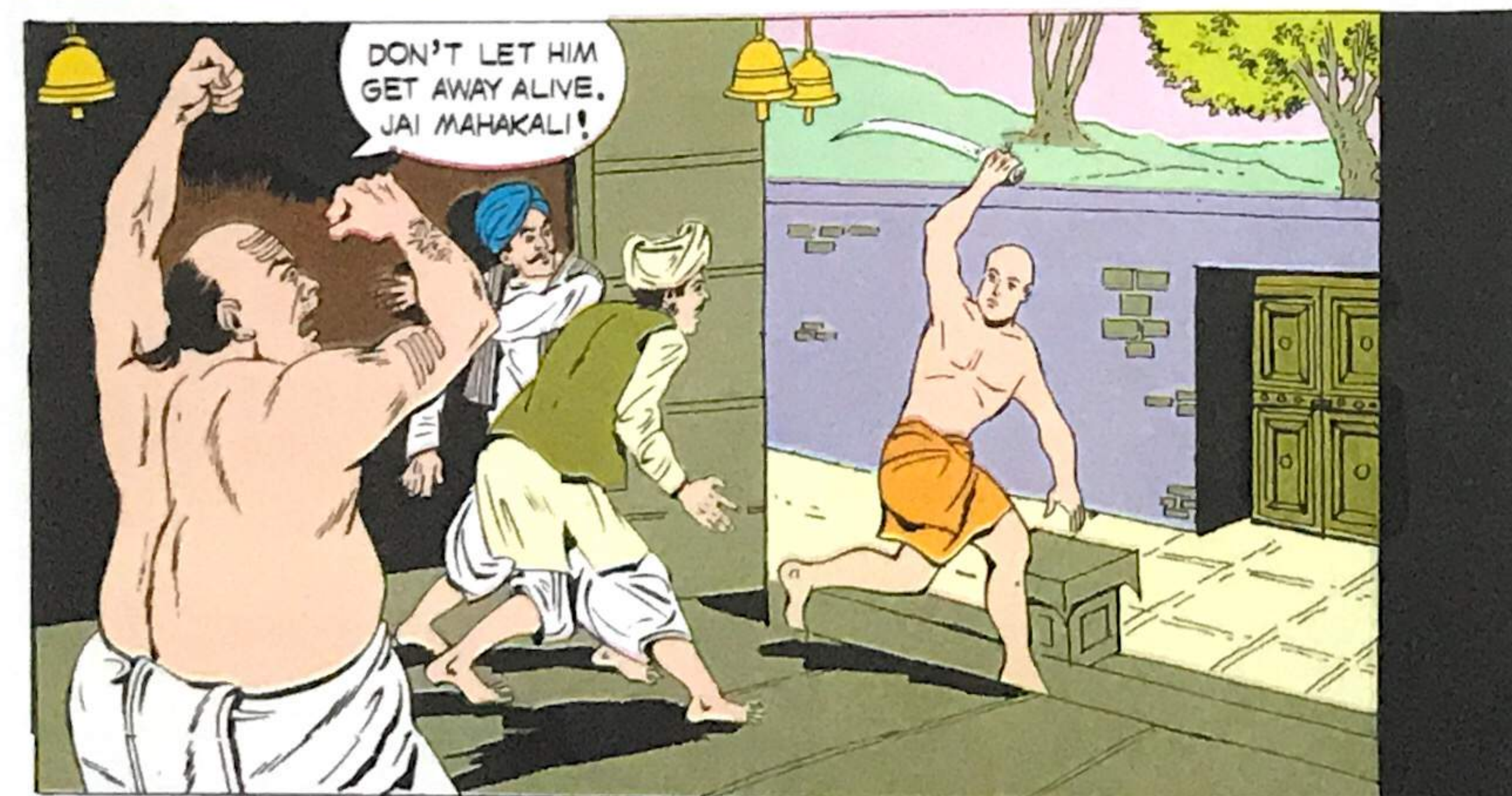
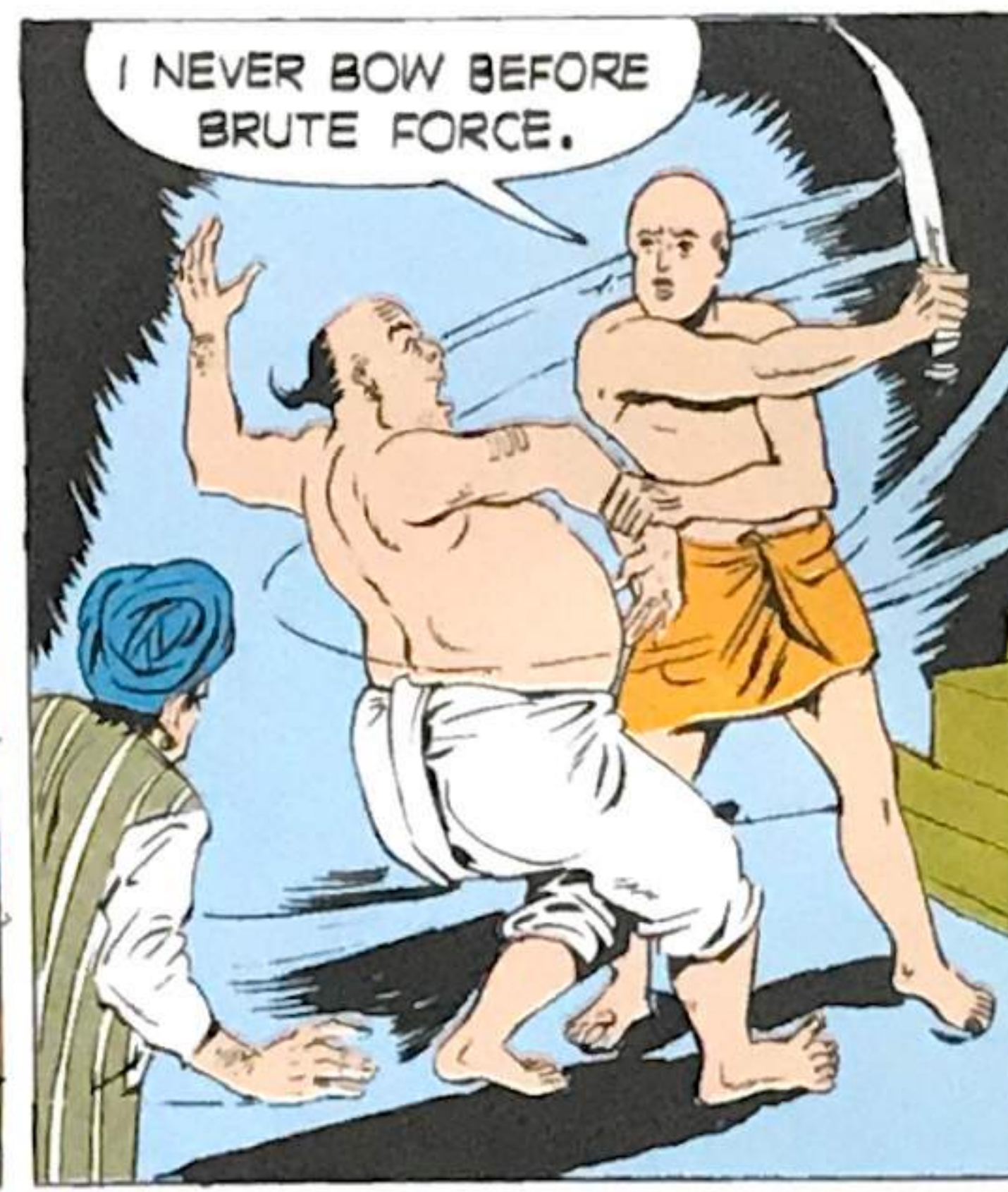


OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE, THERE IS A RELIGIOUS FAIR, MAHARAJ. WE WANT YOU TO SPEAK TO THE GATHERING THERE.

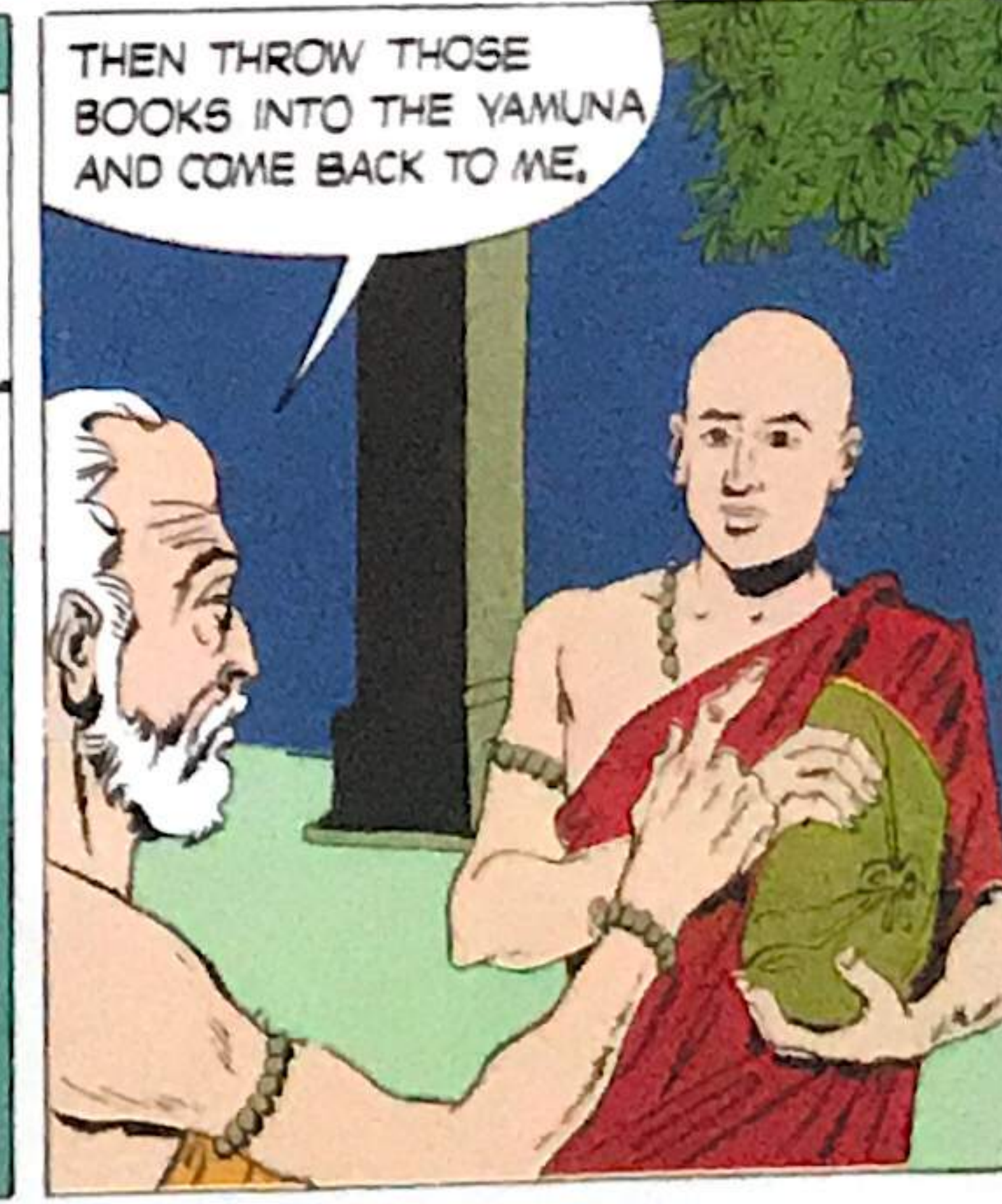
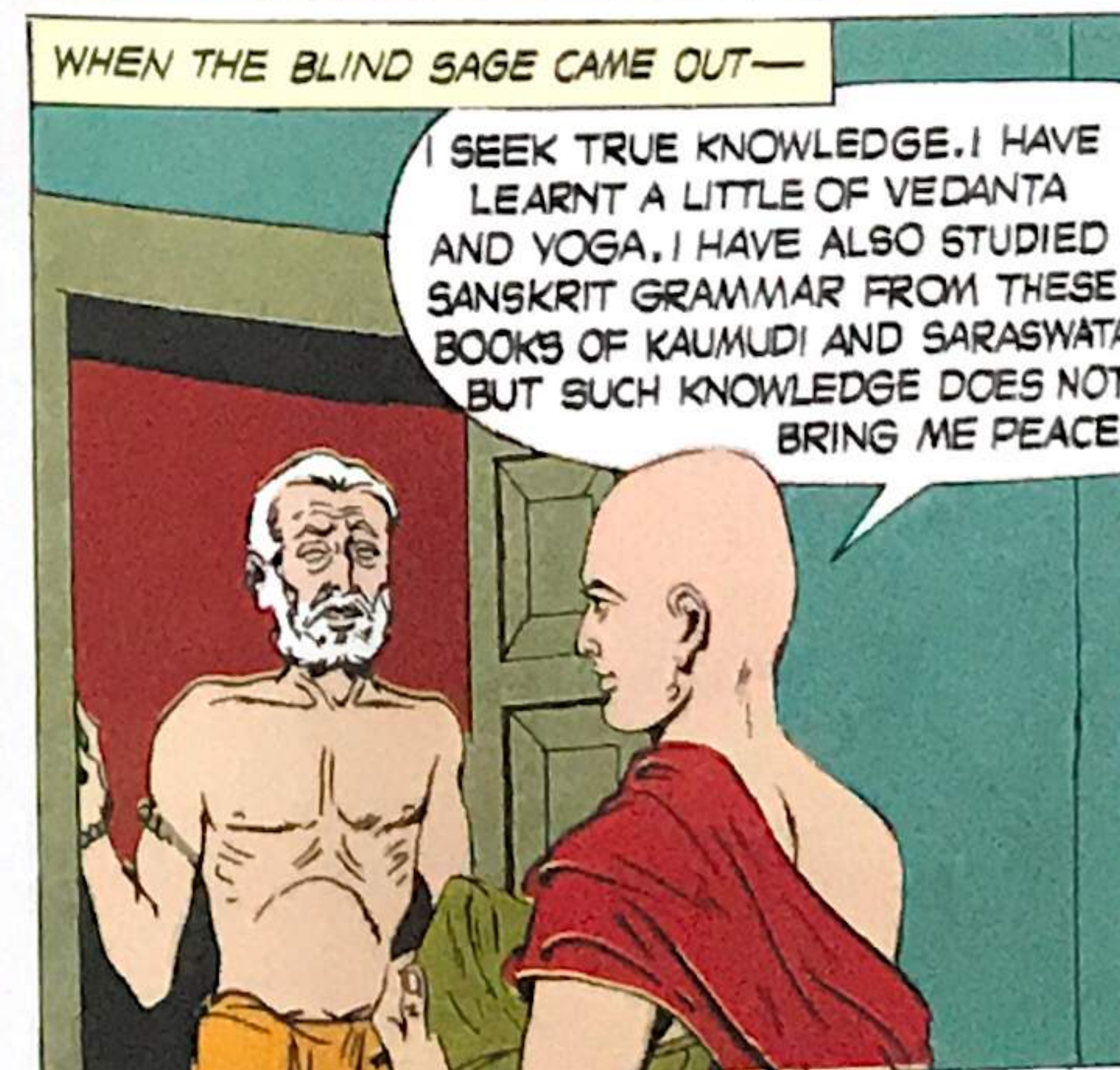


WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME, MY GOOD MAN? I DON'T SEE ANY FAIR AROUND.

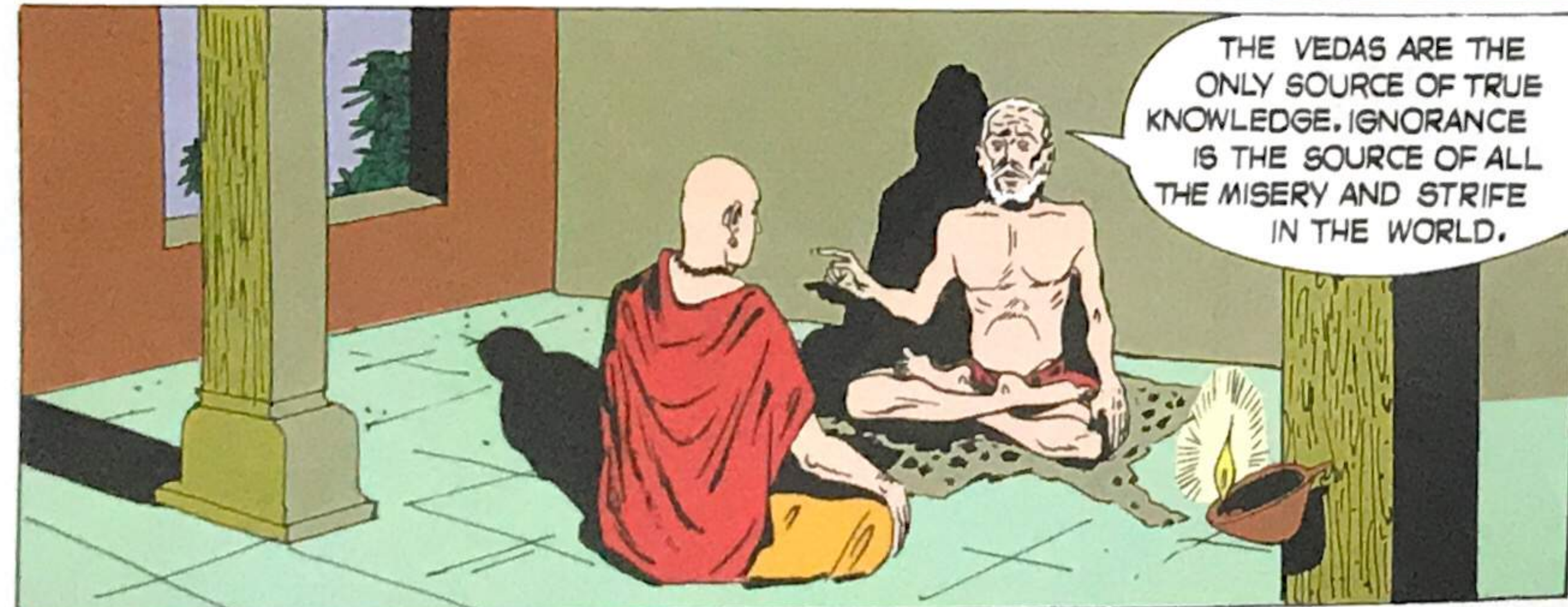
IT IS JUST A LITTLE AHEAD, NEAR THAT TEMPLE.



DAYANANDA WANDERED FOR NEARLY TWELVE YEARS IN SEARCH OF A TRUE GURU. AT LAST HE CAME TO MATHURA AND GURU VIRJANANDA'S ASHRAM.* HE WAS NOW THIRTY-SIX YEARS OLD.



IN THOSE DAYS, PRINTING WAS UNCOMMON AND MANUSCRIPTS OF BOOKS LIKE KAUMUDI AND SARA-SWATA WERE PRECIOUS. BUT DAYANANDA DID NOT HESITATE TO DO AS HE WAS TOLD.

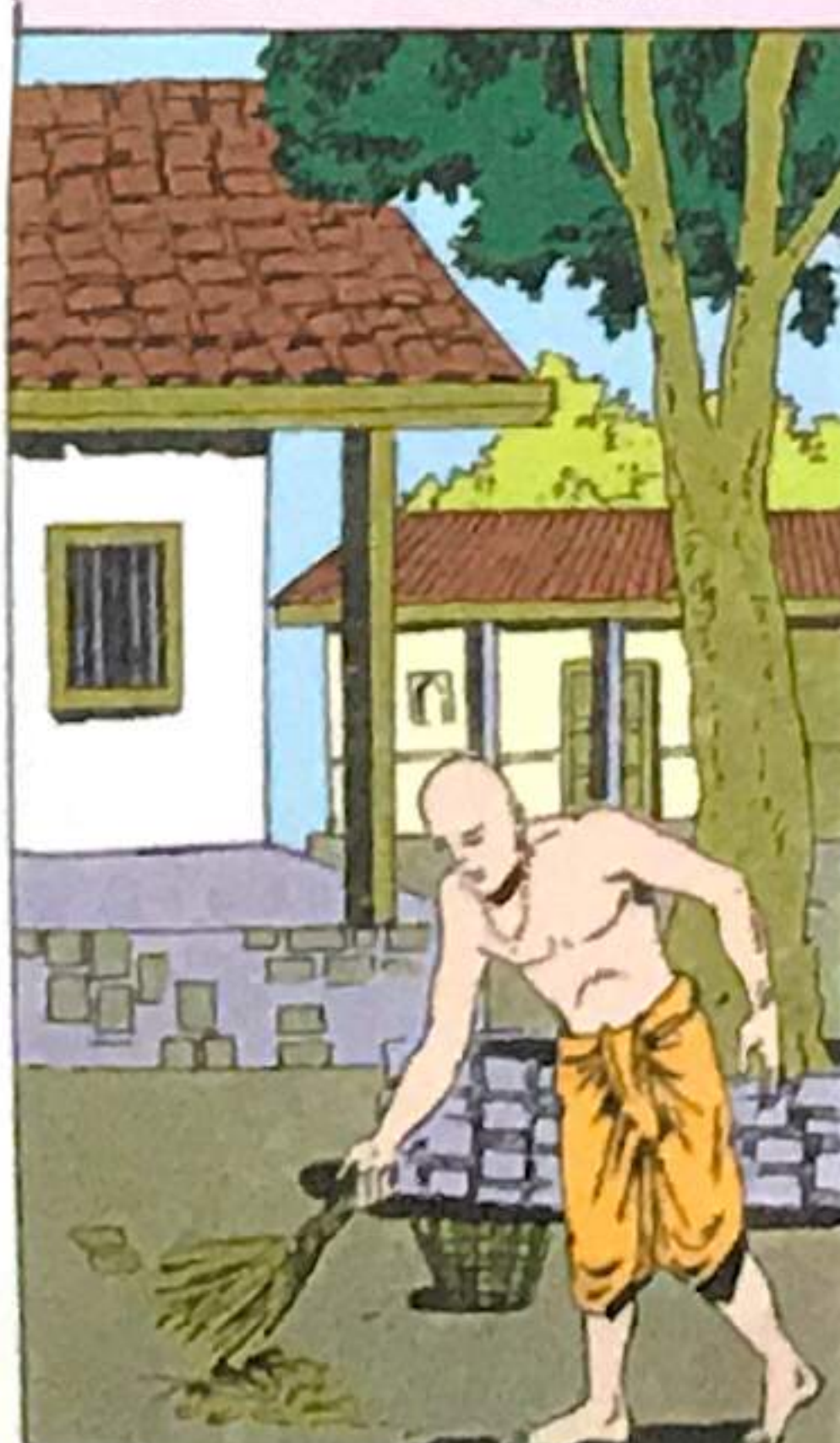


THE VEDAS ARE THE ONLY SOURCE OF TRUE KNOWLEDGE. IGNORANCE IS THE SOURCE OF ALL THE MISERY AND STRIFE IN THE WORLD.

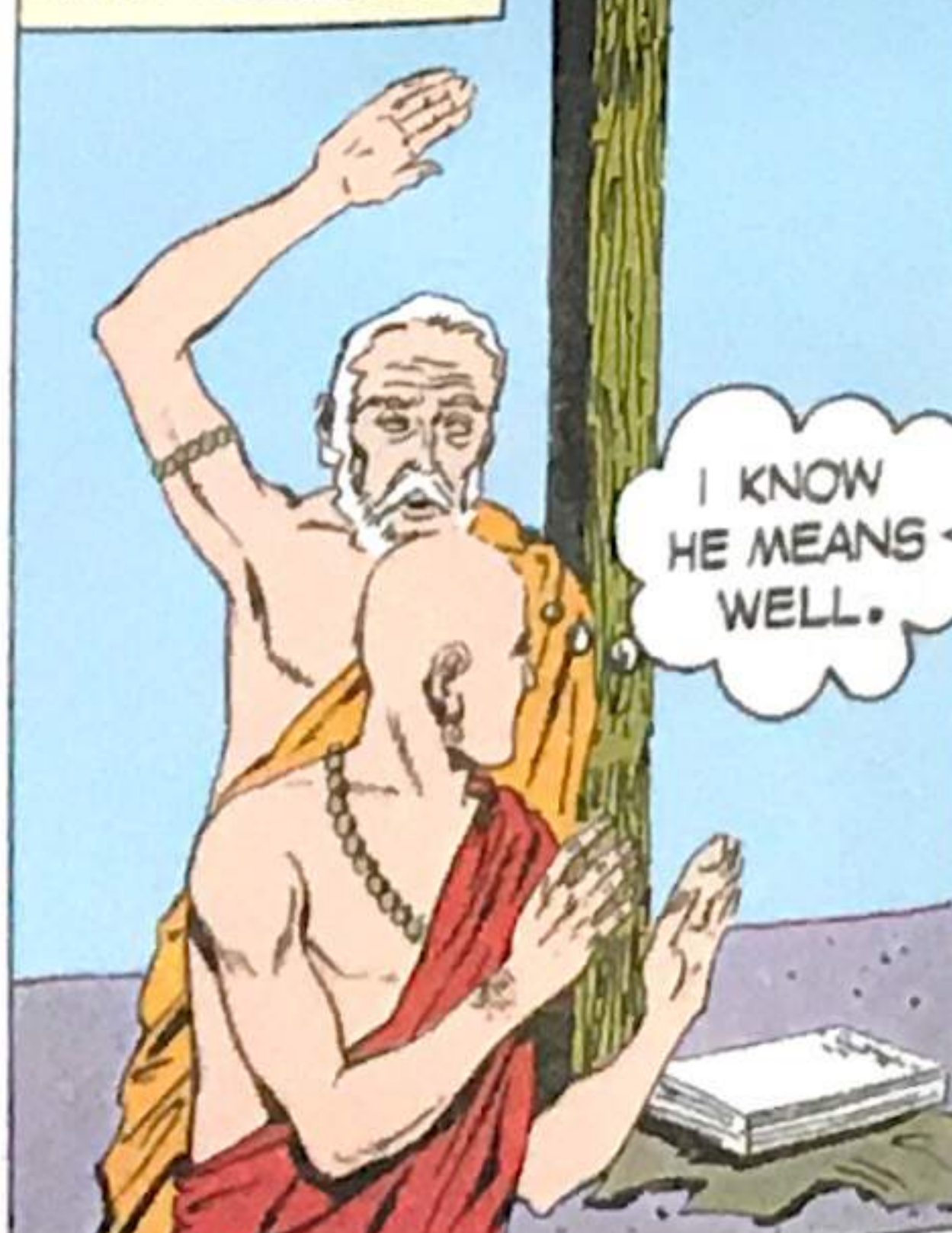
DAYANANDA WAS DEVOTED TO HIS GURU. HE FETCHED WATER FOR HIS BATH...



...SWEPT THE FLOOR...



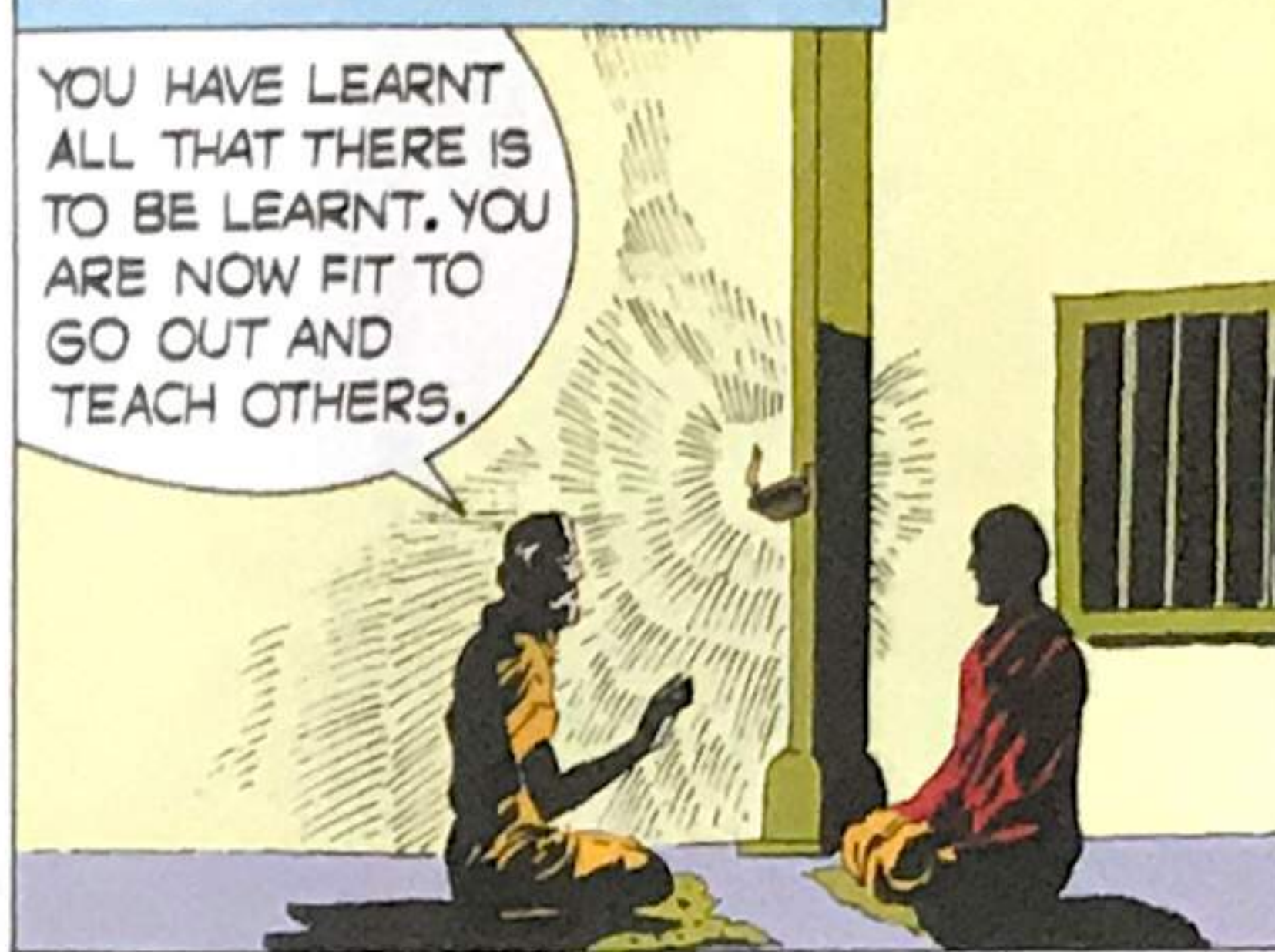
...AND EVEN BORE HIS IMPATIENCE WITH PLEASURE.



I KNOW HE MEANS WELL.

TWO AND A HALF YEARS LATER—

YOU HAVE LEARNT ALL THAT THERE IS TO BE LEARNT. YOU ARE NOW FIT TO GO OUT AND TEACH OTHERS.



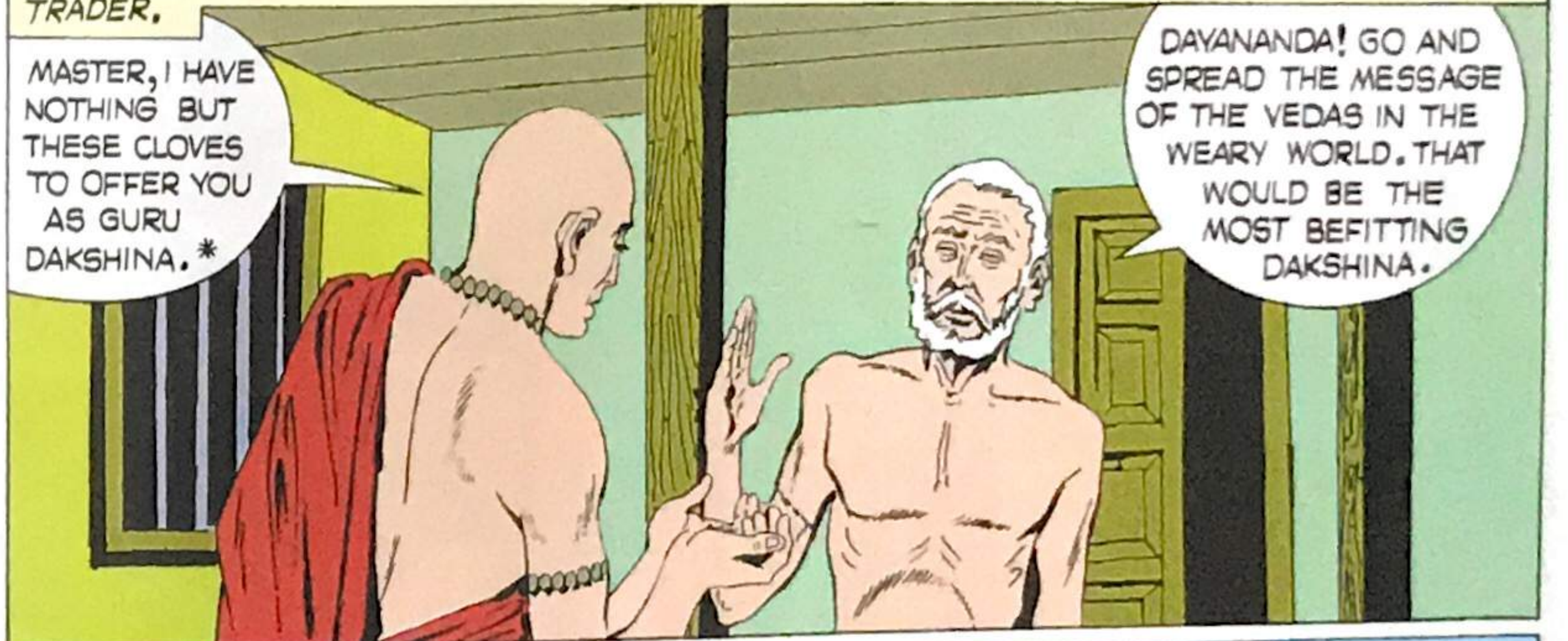
DAYANANDA FELL AT THE FEET OF HIS MASTER.

MASTER, HOW CAN I EVER REPAY YOUR KINDNESS?



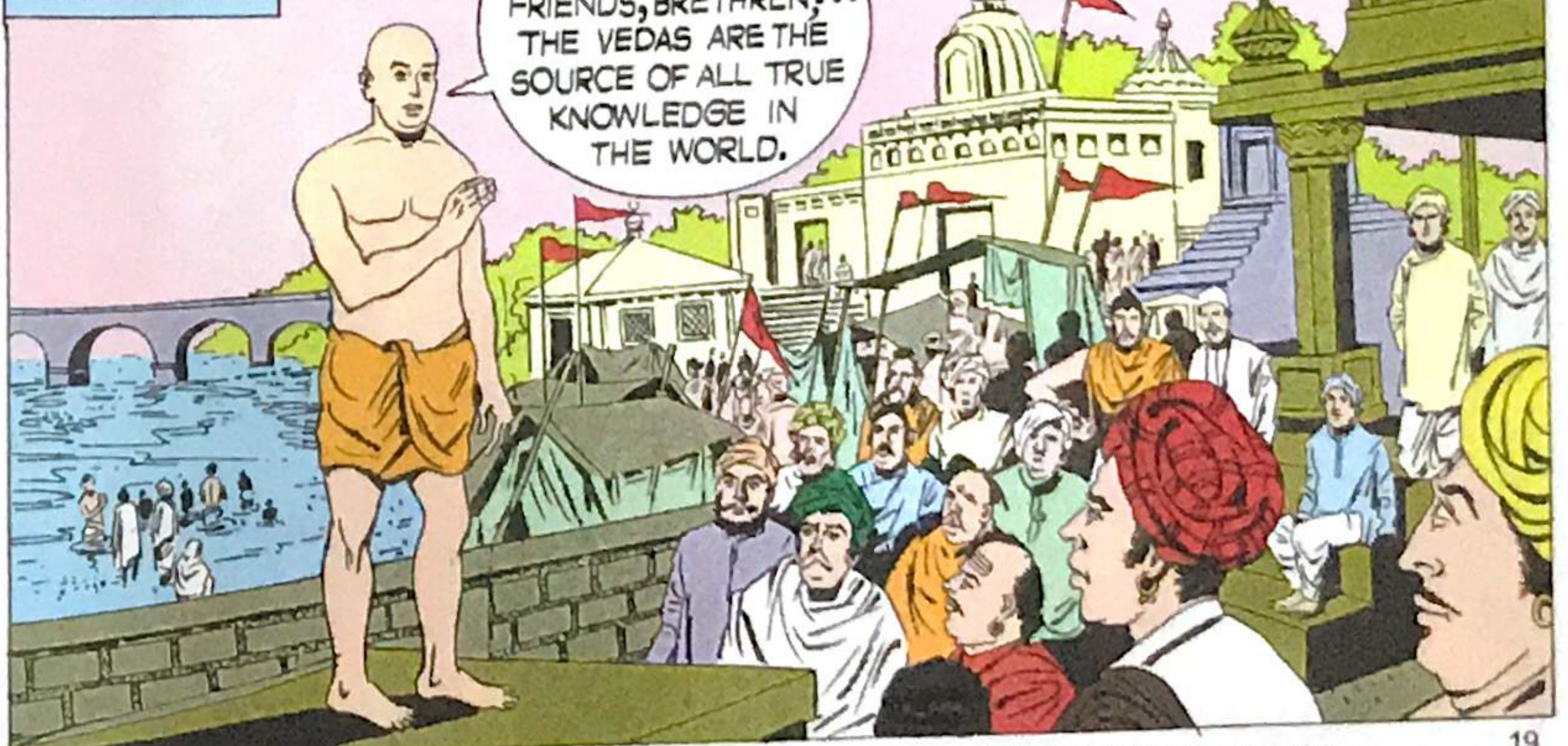
IT WAS THE CUSTOM IN THOSE DAYS, FOR THE DISCIPLE TO OFFER A GIFT TO HIS TEACHER WHEN HIS STUDIES WERE OVER. ALL THAT DAYANANDA HAD WERE A FEW CLOVES, GIVEN TO HIM BY A LOCAL TRADER.

MASTER, I HAVE NOTHING BUT THESE CLOVES TO OFFER YOU AS GURU DAKSHINA.*



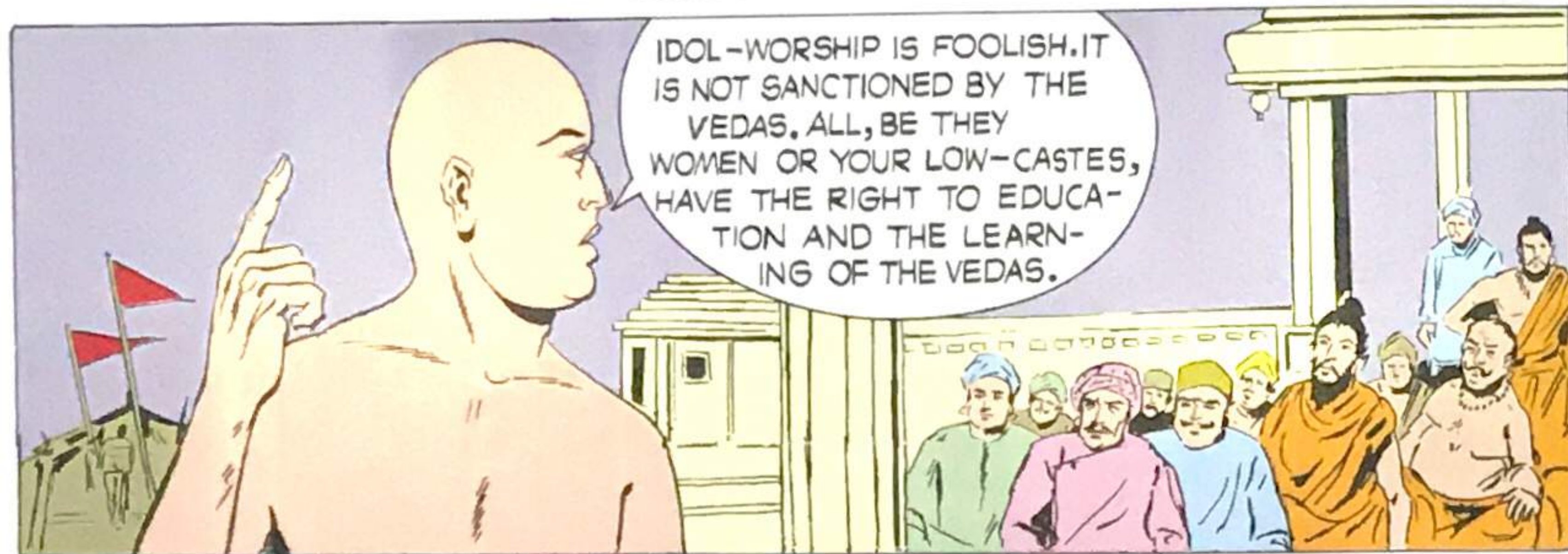
DAYANANDA! GO AND SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF THE VEDAS IN THE WEARY WORLD. THAT WOULD BE THE MOST BEFITTING DAKSHINA.

DAYANANDA SET ABOUT HIS TASK IN ALL SERIOUSNESS. HE WENT FROM MATHURA TO AGRA AND GAVE HIS FIRST PUBLIC LECTURE THERE, THEN IN 1867 HE CAME TO HARIDWAR TO ATTEND THE KUMBH MELA.†



FRIENDS, BRETHREN... THE VEDAS ARE THE SOURCE OF ALL TRUE KNOWLEDGE IN THE WORLD.

* OFFERING TO THE GURU. † A RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL, HELD EVERY TWELVE YEARS.



MANY WERE CONVINCED BY HIS WORDS, BUT MANY WERE NOT.

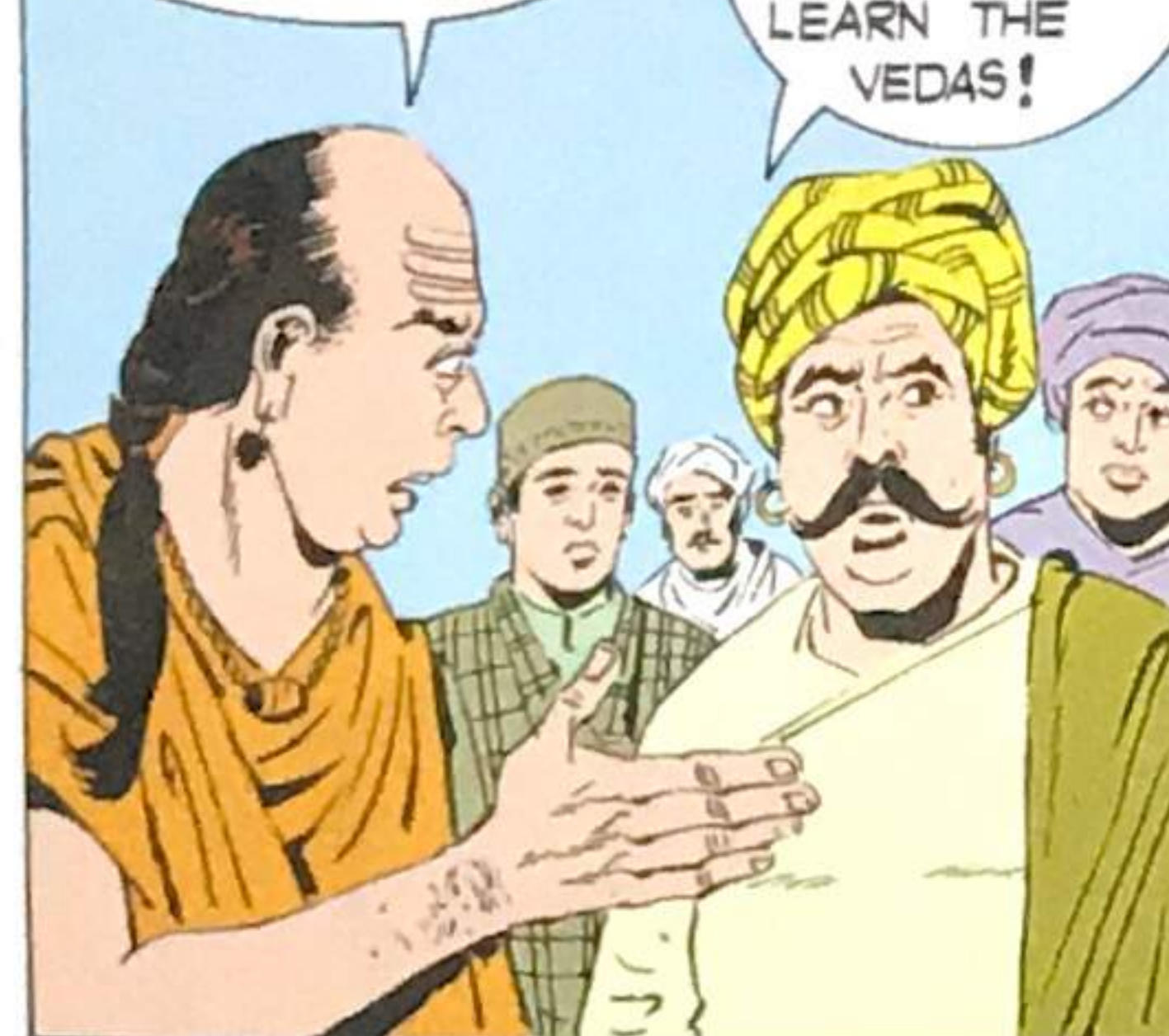
HE PREACHES AGAINST THE WORSHIP OF THE DEITIES!

HOW DARE HE SAY THAT WOMEN HAVE A RIGHT TO LEARN THE VEDAS!

THE SO-CALLED RELIGIOUS TEACHERS WANT TO KEEP YOU IN IGNORANCE SO THAT THEY CAN EXPLOIT YOU. DON'T LISTEN TO THEM.

STOP THAT NONSENSE!

TAKE THIS FOR YOUR BLASPHEMY.



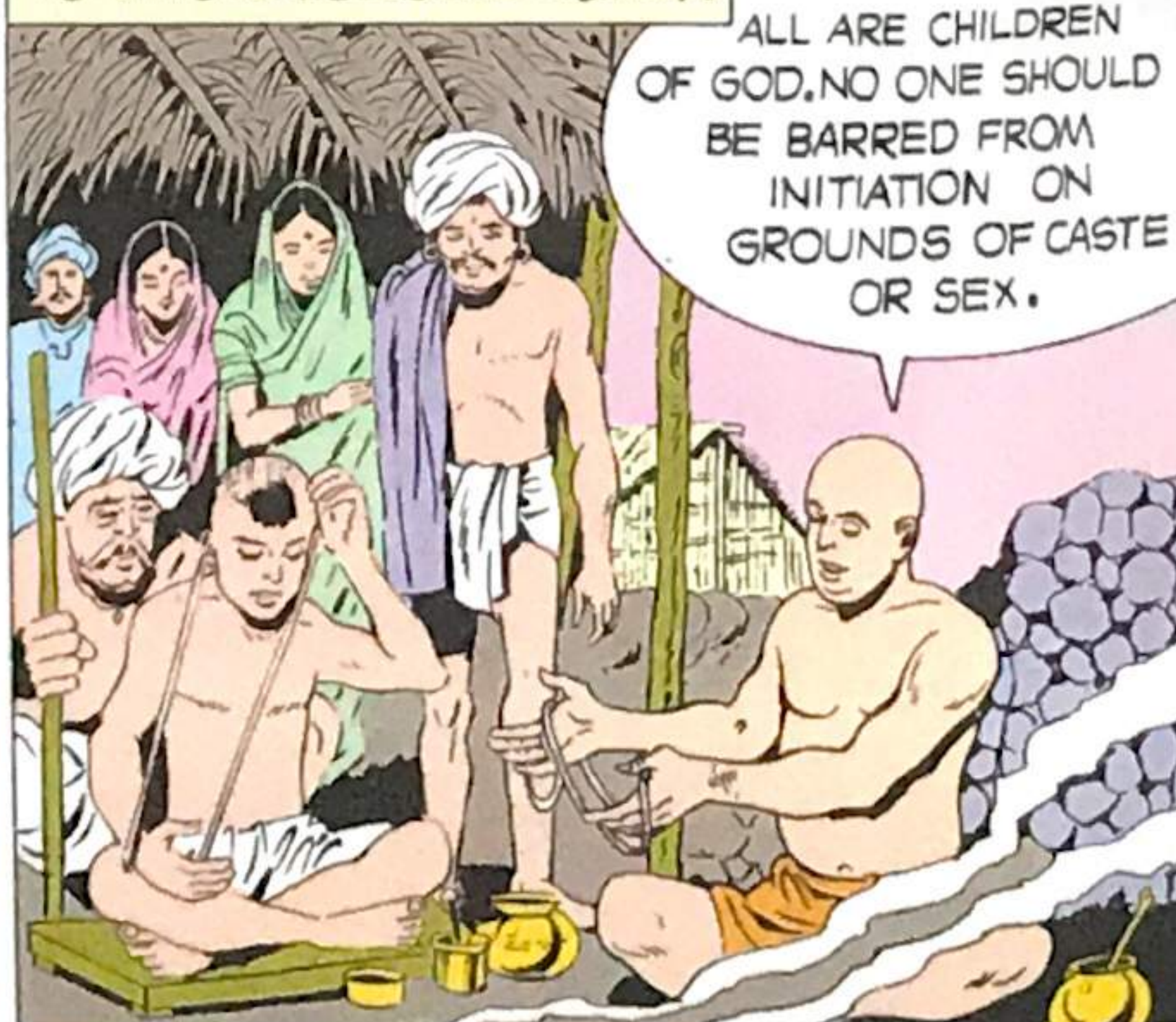
DAYANANDA WITHSTOOD THE ATTACK LIKE A STOIC. EVEN HIS OPPONENTS WERE IMPRESSED BY HIS COURAGE.

HE IS BRAVE!



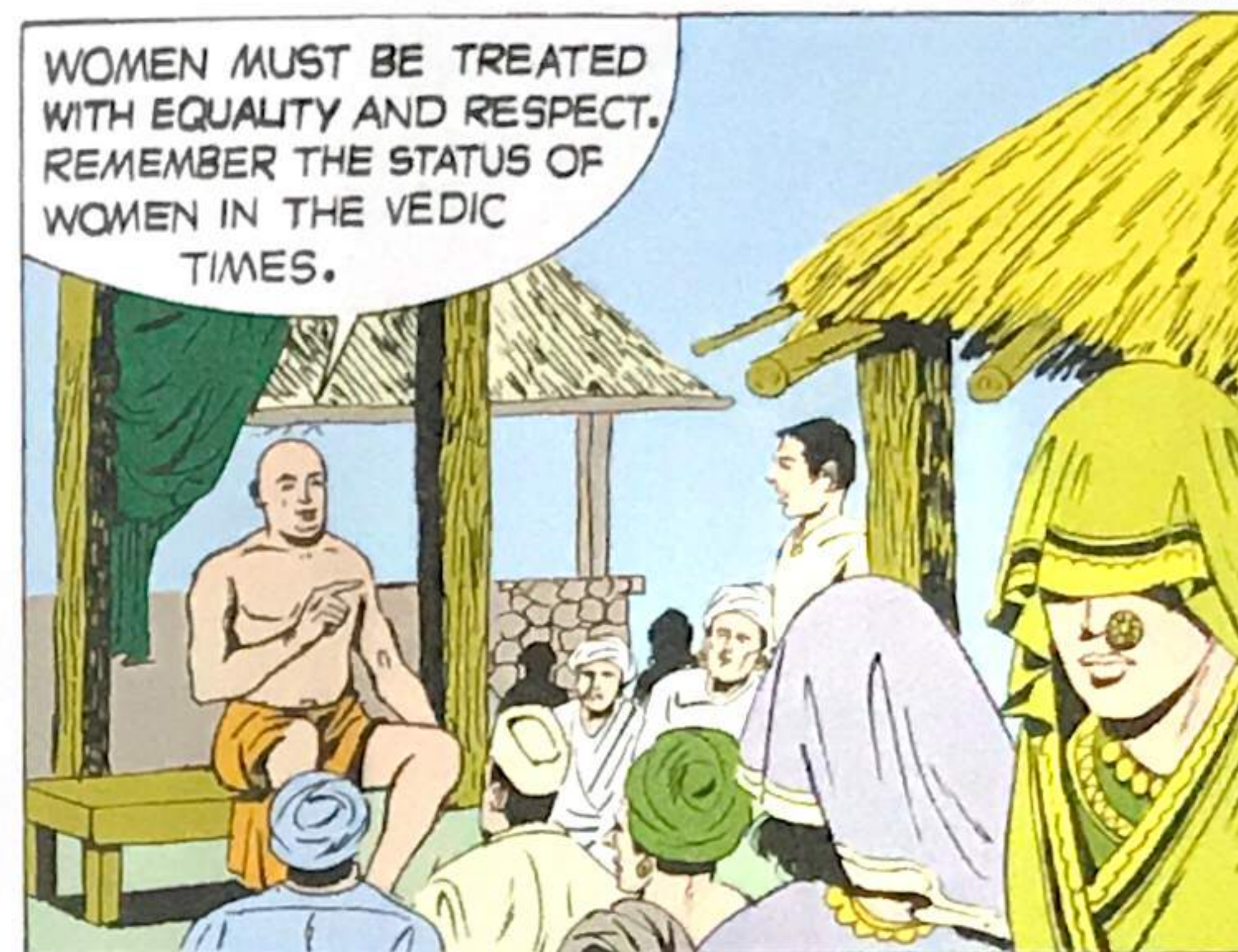
DAYANANDA STARTED GIVING THE SACRED THREAD* TO UNTOUCHABLES AND WOMEN.

ALL ARE CHILDREN OF GOD. NO ONE SHOULD BE BARRED FROM INITIATION ON GROUNDS OF CASTE OR SEX.

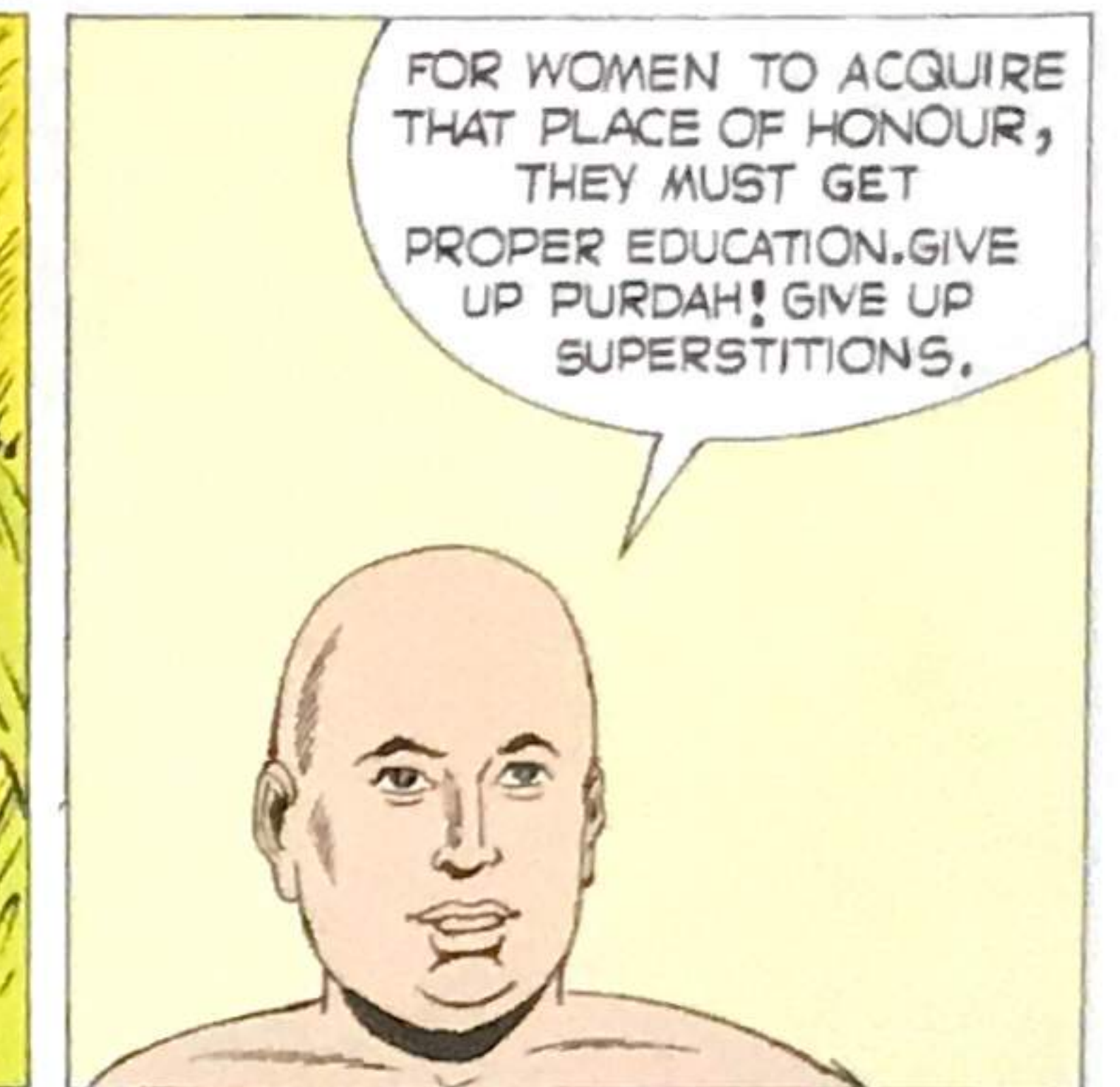


*SYMBOLIC OF INITIATION AND MEANT ONLY FOR MALES OF THE BRAHMAN, KSHATRIYA AND VAISHYA CASTES.

WOMEN MUST BE TREATED WITH EQUALITY AND RESPECT. REMEMBER THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE VEDIC TIMES.

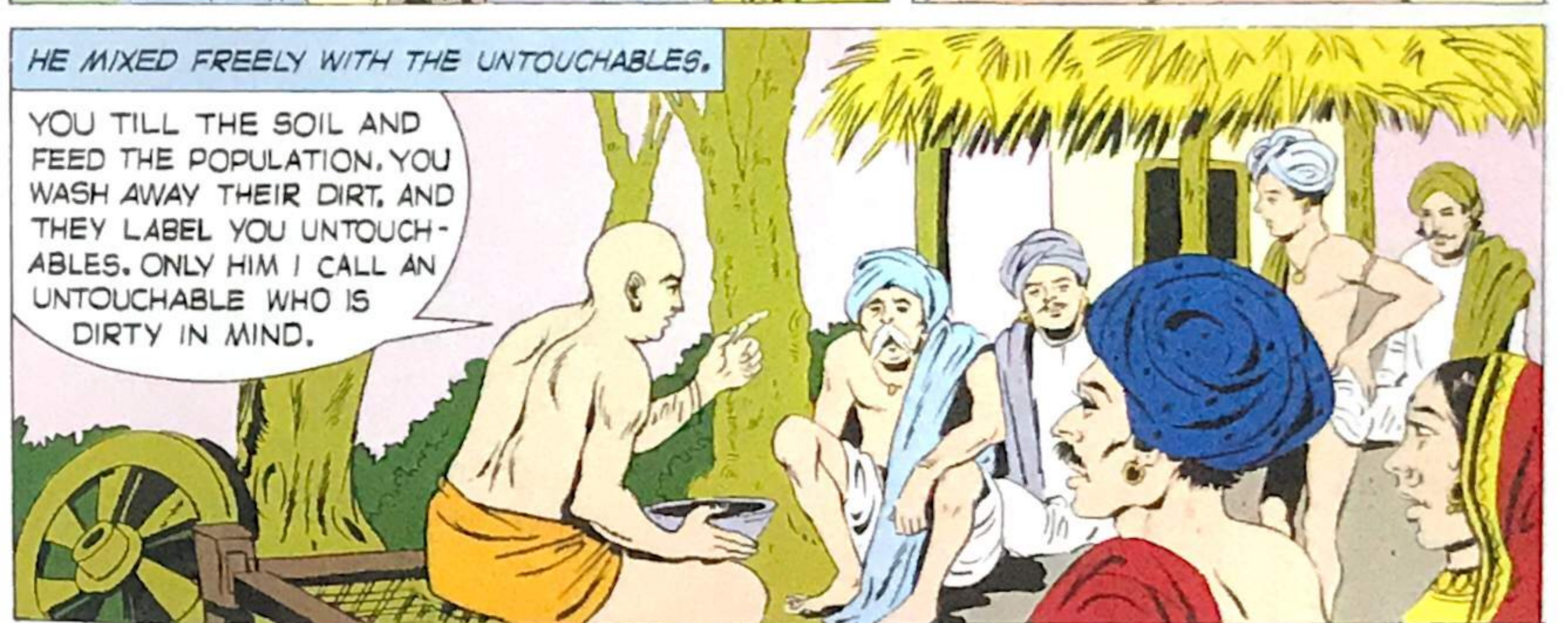


FOR WOMEN TO ACQUIRE THAT PLACE OF HONOUR, THEY MUST GET PROPER EDUCATION. GIVE UP PURDAH! GIVE UP SUPERSTITIONS.



HE MIXED FREELY WITH THE UNTOUCHABLES.

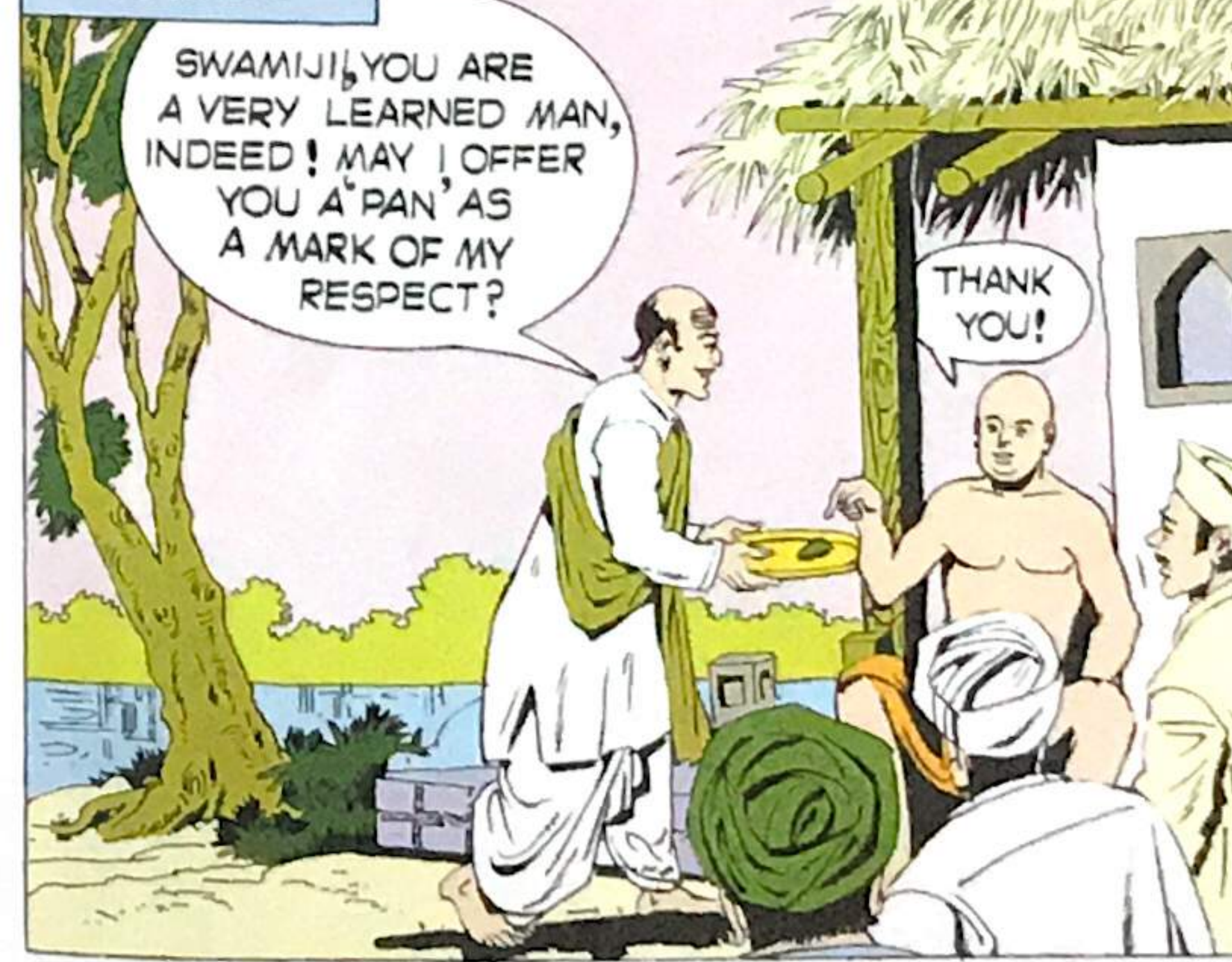
YOU TILL THE SOIL AND FEED THE POPULATION. YOU WASH AWAY THEIR DIRT. AND THEY LABEL YOU UNTOUCHABLES. ONLY HIM I CALL AN UNTOUCHABLE WHO IS DIRTY IN MIND.



AT ANUPSHAHAR THE CONSERVATIVES WERE FURIOUS WITH HIM. ONE DAY—

SWAMIJI, YOU ARE A VERY LEARNED MAN, INDEED! MAY I OFFER YOU A PAN* AS A MARK OF MY RESPECT?

THANK YOU!



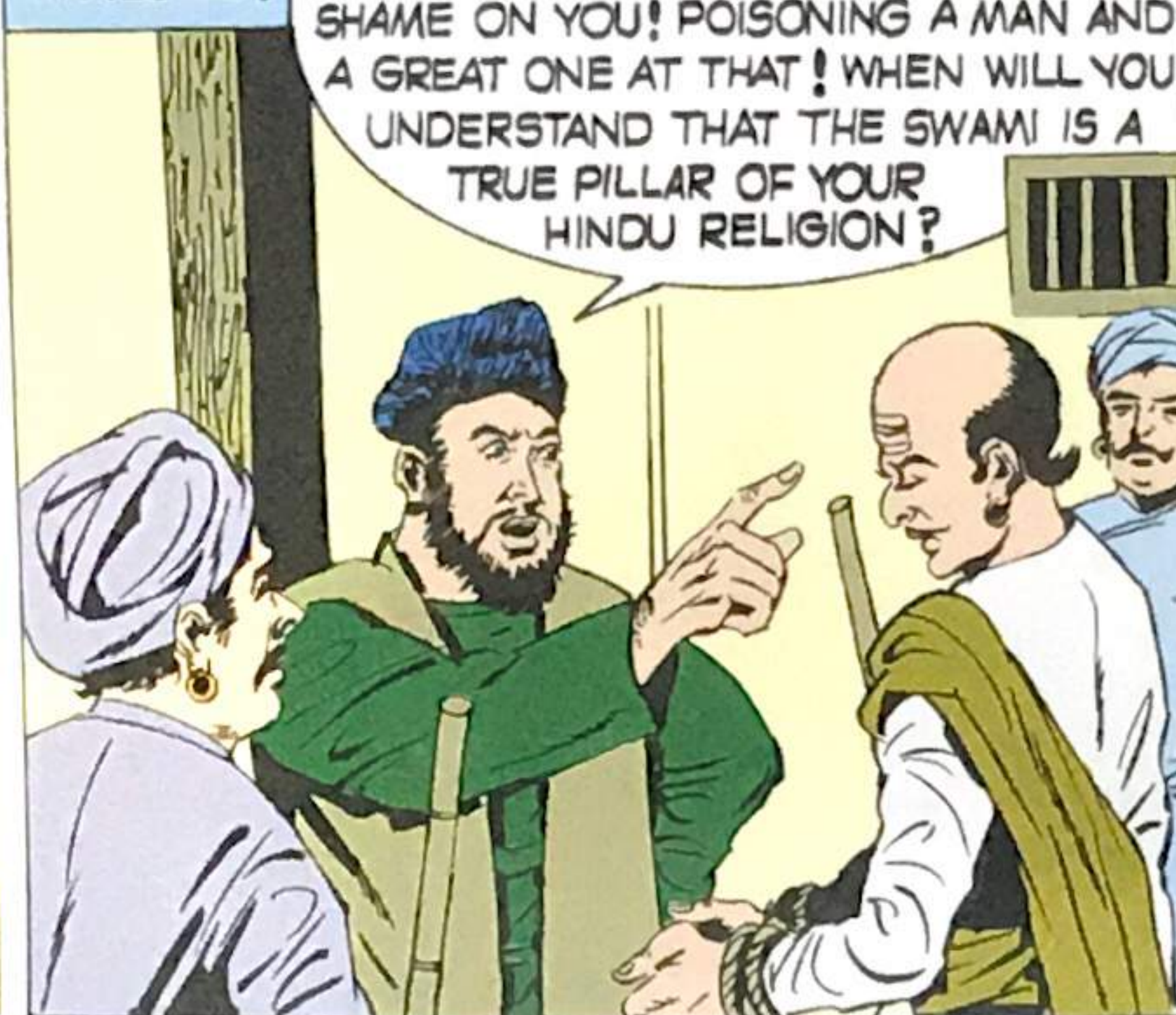
THE PAN WAS POISONED! OH GOD!



BUT DAYANANDA WENT TO THE RIVER AND WITH THE HELP OF YOGA, REMOVED THE POISON BY REGURGITATING ALL THE FOOD HE HAD EATEN.



THE TAHSILDAR OF THE TOWN HAD THE CULPRIT ARRESTED.

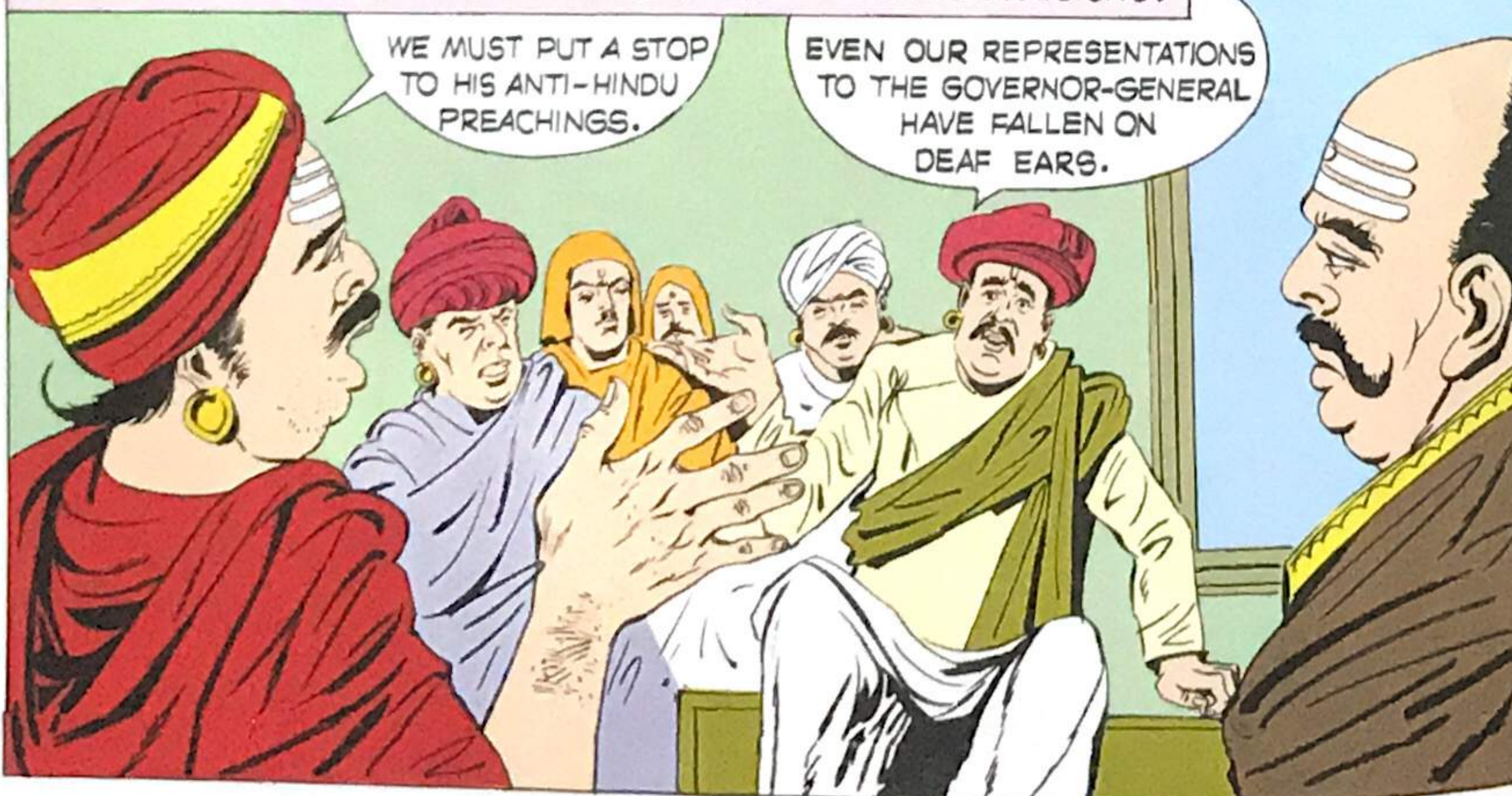


WHEN THE CULPRIT WAS BROUGHT BEFORE DAYANANDA —

SYED SAHIB, PLEASE RELEASE HIM. I HAVE COME TO SET PEOPLE FREE, NOT TO THROW THEM INTO BONDAGE.



THE GROWING POPULARITY OF DAYANANDA WAS RESENTED BY ORTHODOX HINDUS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THEY MET IN THE LEADING CITIES AND HELD DISCUSSIONS.

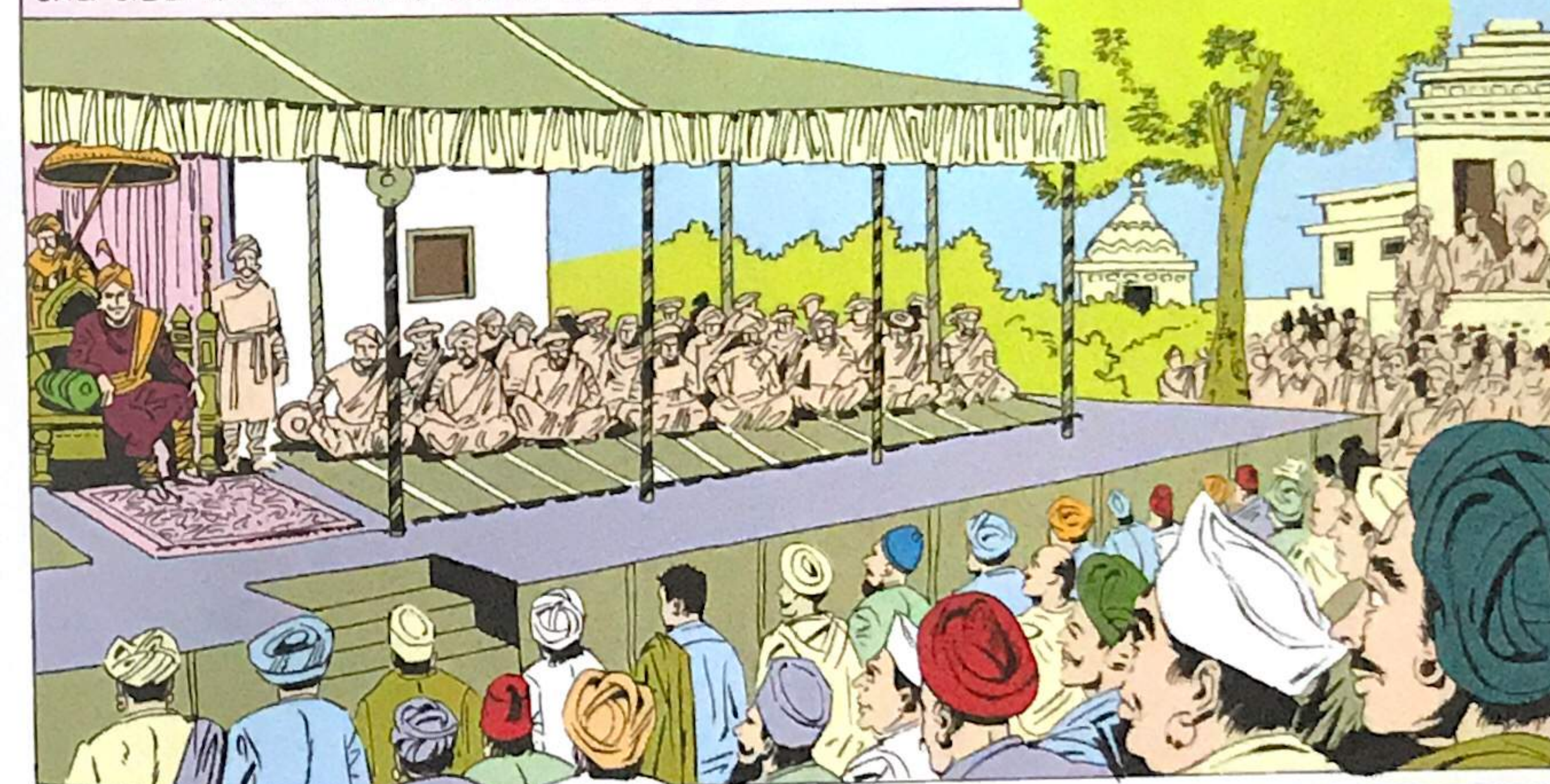


I HAVE A SUGGESTION. TRADITIONALLY, KASHI IS THE CENTRE OF HINDU LEARNING. LET THE LEARNED PUNDITS OF KASHI CHALLENGE HIM. THEY WILL CERTAINLY DEFEAT HIM IN DEBATE.

A GOOD IDEA! IF HE IS DEFEATED, HE WILL LOSE FACE AND POPULARITY.

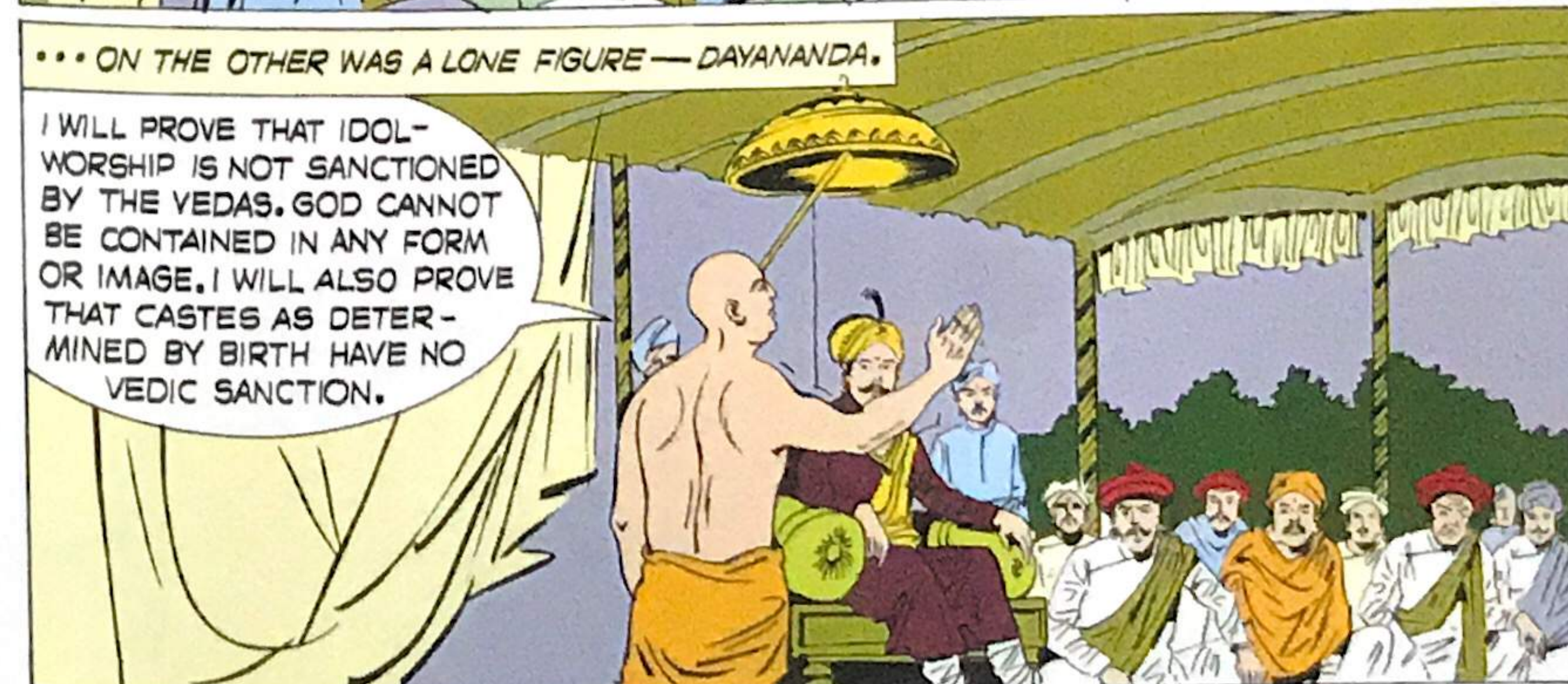


THUS IT WAS THAT A DEBATE WAS ARRANGED ON OCTOBER 22, 1869 AT KASHI. THE MAHARAJA OF KASHI PRESIDED OVER THE MEETING. THOUSANDS HAD GATHERED TO LISTEN TO THE DEBATE. ON ONE SIDE WERE TWENTY-SEVEN DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS...

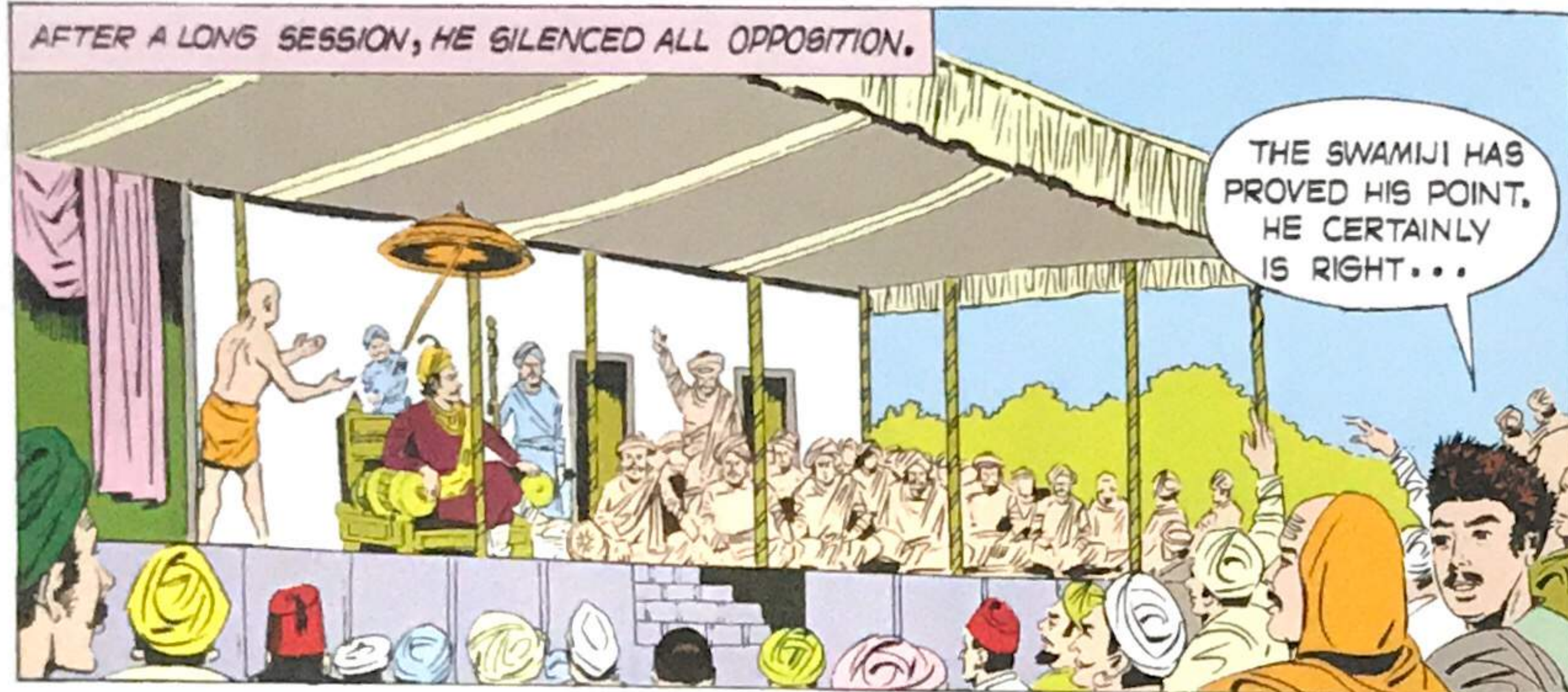


... ON THE OTHER WAS A LONE FIGURE — DAYANANDA.

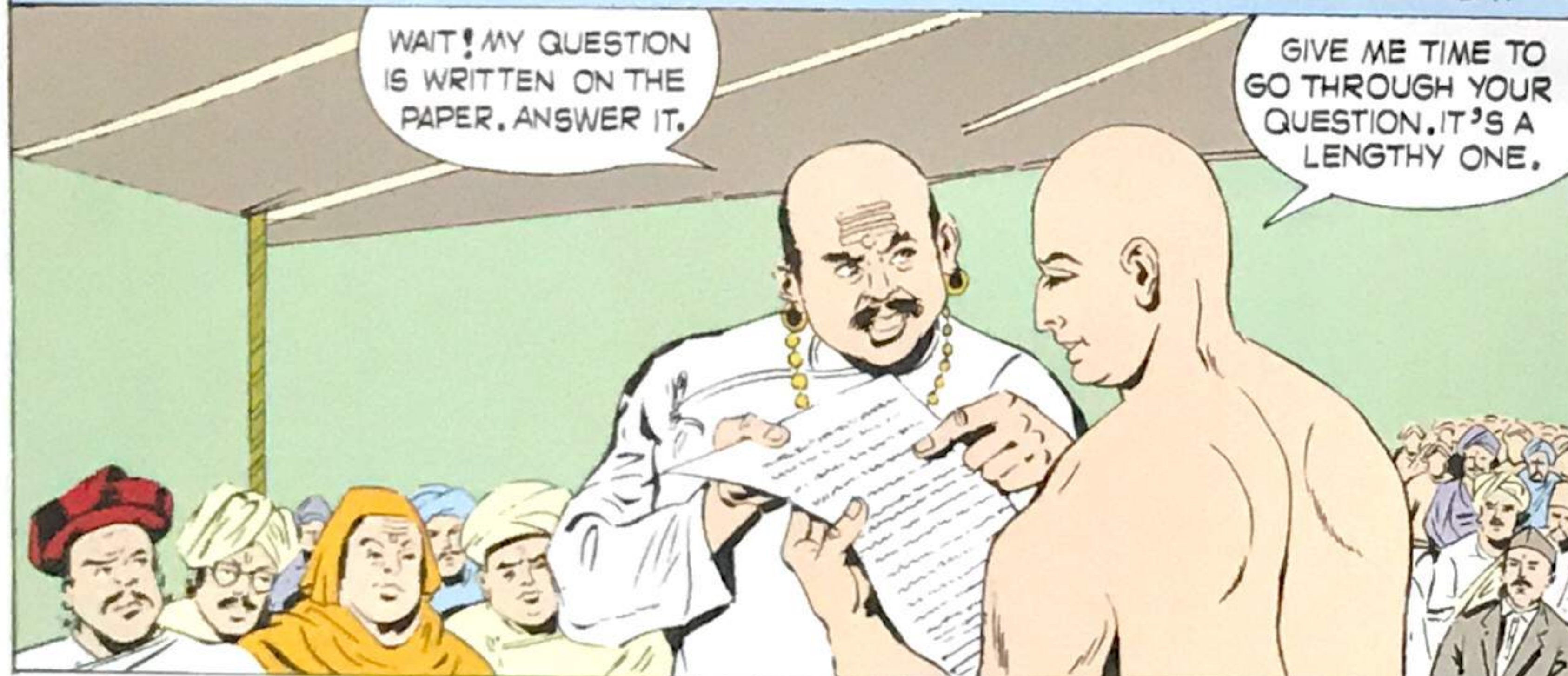
I WILL PROVE THAT IDOL-WORSHIP IS NOT SANCTIONED BY THE VEDAS. GOD CANNOT BE CONTAINED IN ANY FORM OR IMAGE. I WILL ALSO PROVE THAT CASTES AS DETERMINED BY BIRTH HAVE NO VEDIC SANCTION.



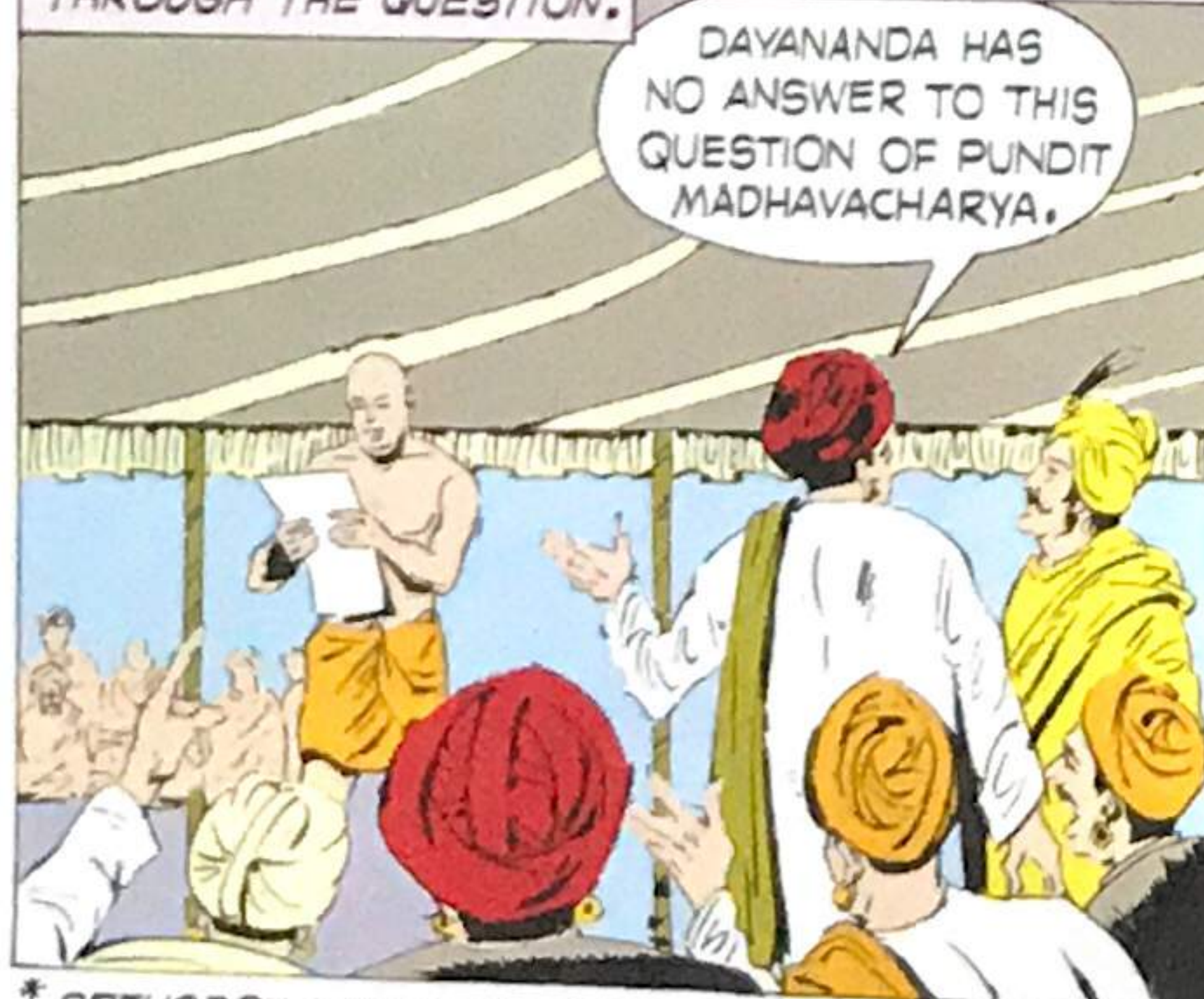
AFTER A LONG SESSION, HE SILENCED ALL OPPOSITION.



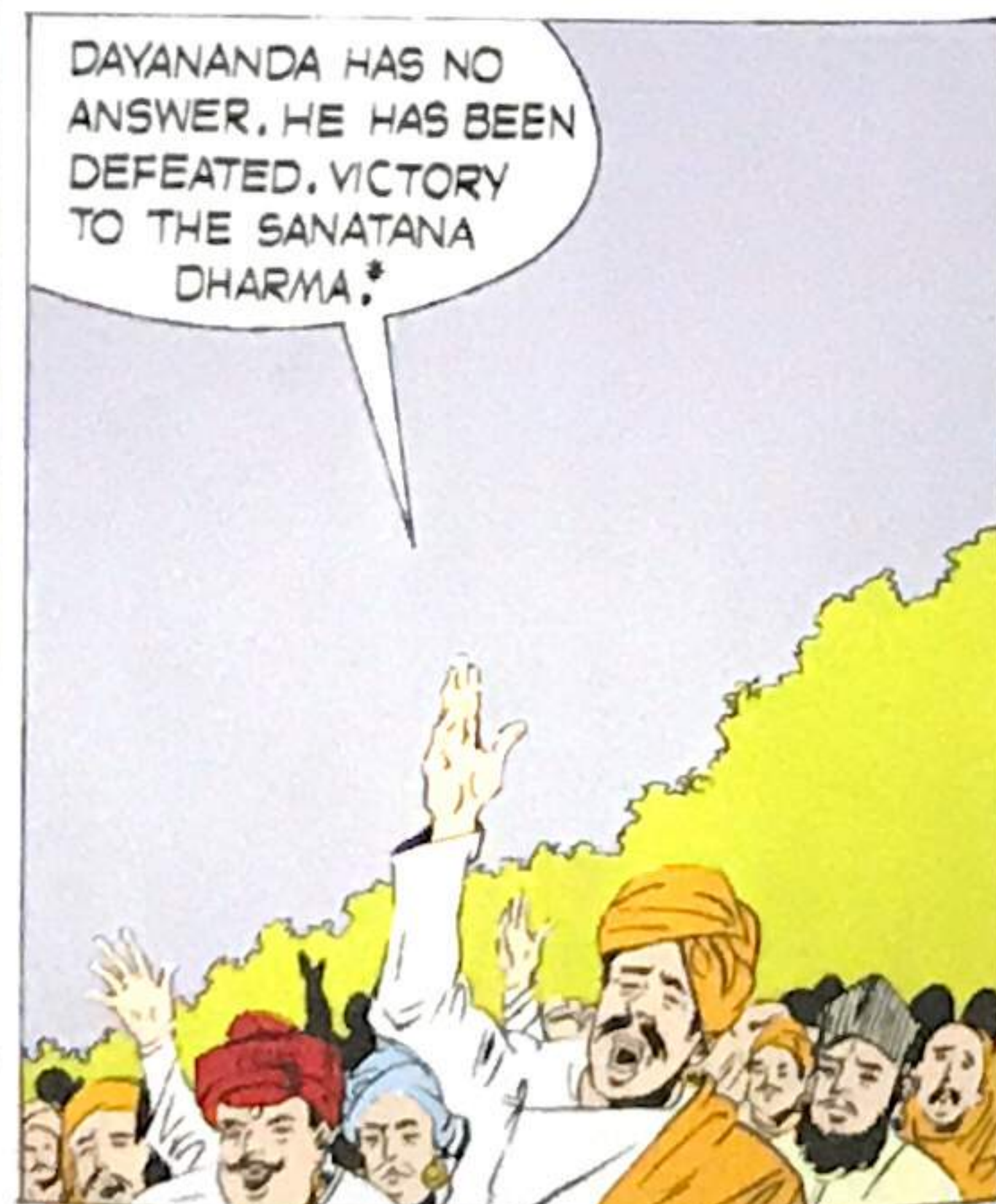
JUST THEN, A PUNDIT ROSE UP AND PLACED A SHEET OF PAPER IN THE HANDS OF DAYANANDA.



BUT THE PUNDITS PRESSED THE MAHARAJA TO GIVE HIS VERDICT, BEFORE DAYANANDA WAS EVEN HALF-WAY THROUGH THE QUESTION.

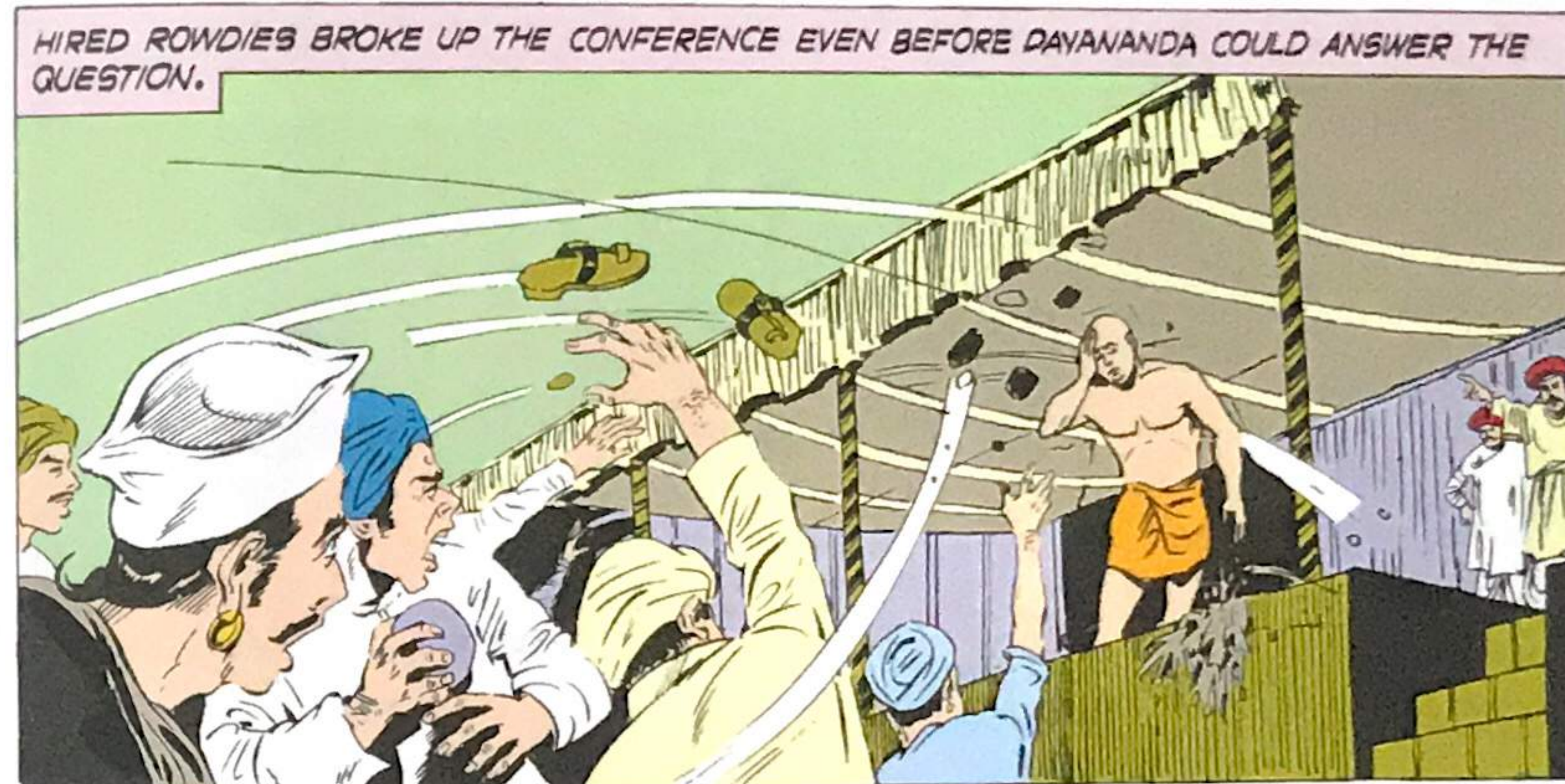


DAYANANDA HAS NO ANSWER. HE HAS BEEN DEFEATED. VICTORY TO THE SANATANA DHARMA.*

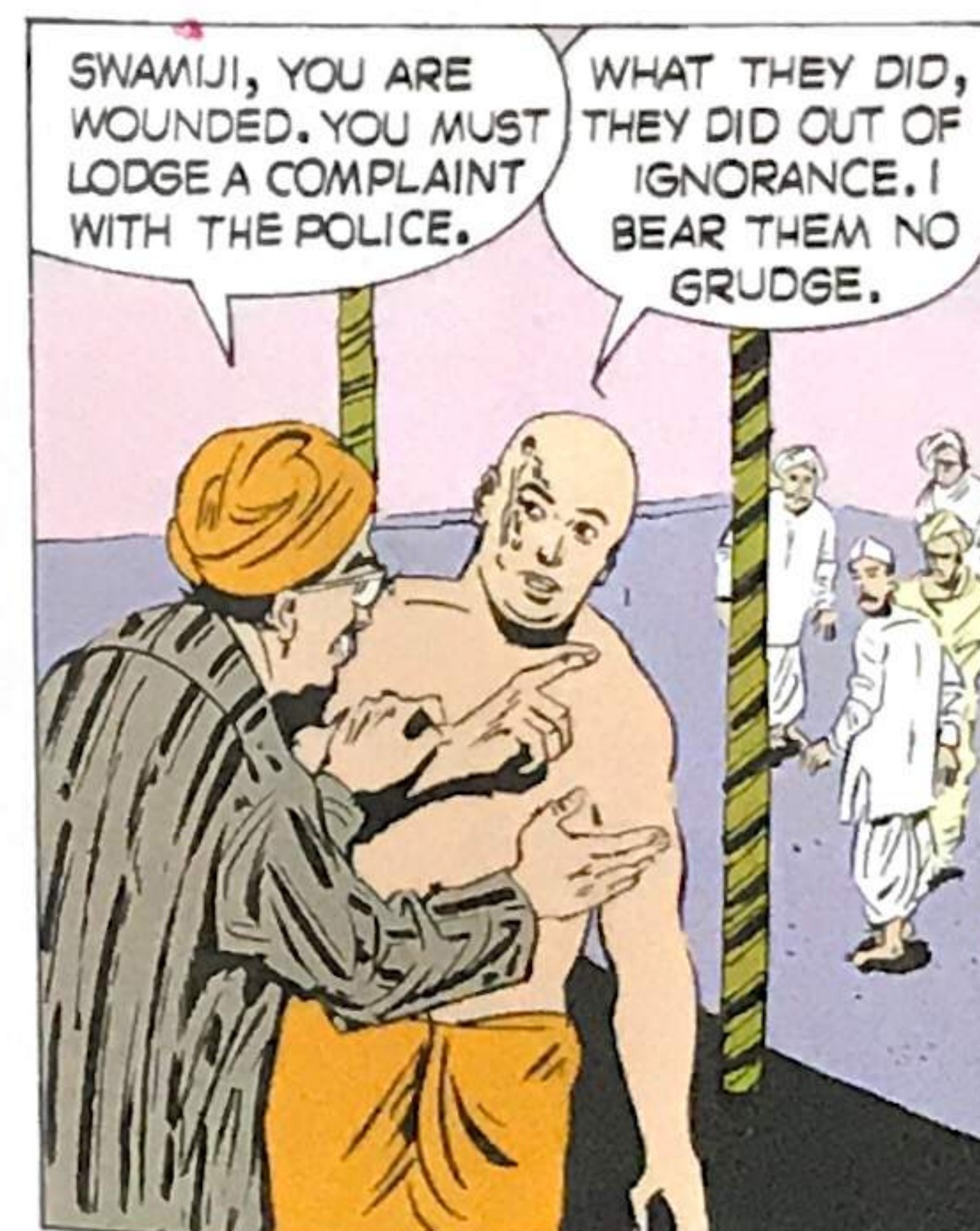


* ORTHODOX HINDU RELIGION.

HIRED ROWDIES BROKE UP THE CONFERENCE EVEN BEFORE DAYANANDA COULD ANSWER THE QUESTION.

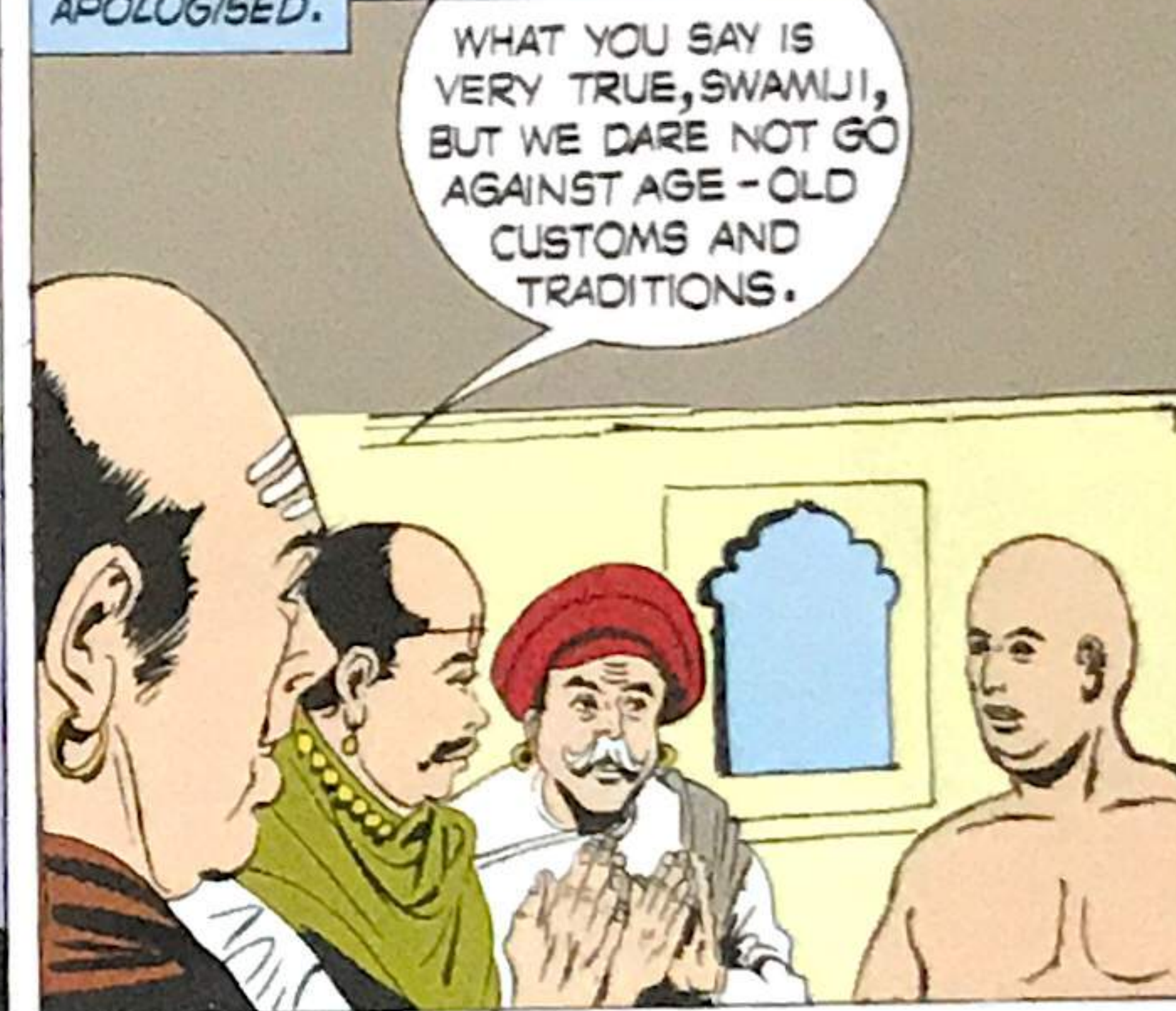


SWAMIJI, YOU ARE WOUNDED. YOU MUST LODGE A COMPLAINT WITH THE POLICE.



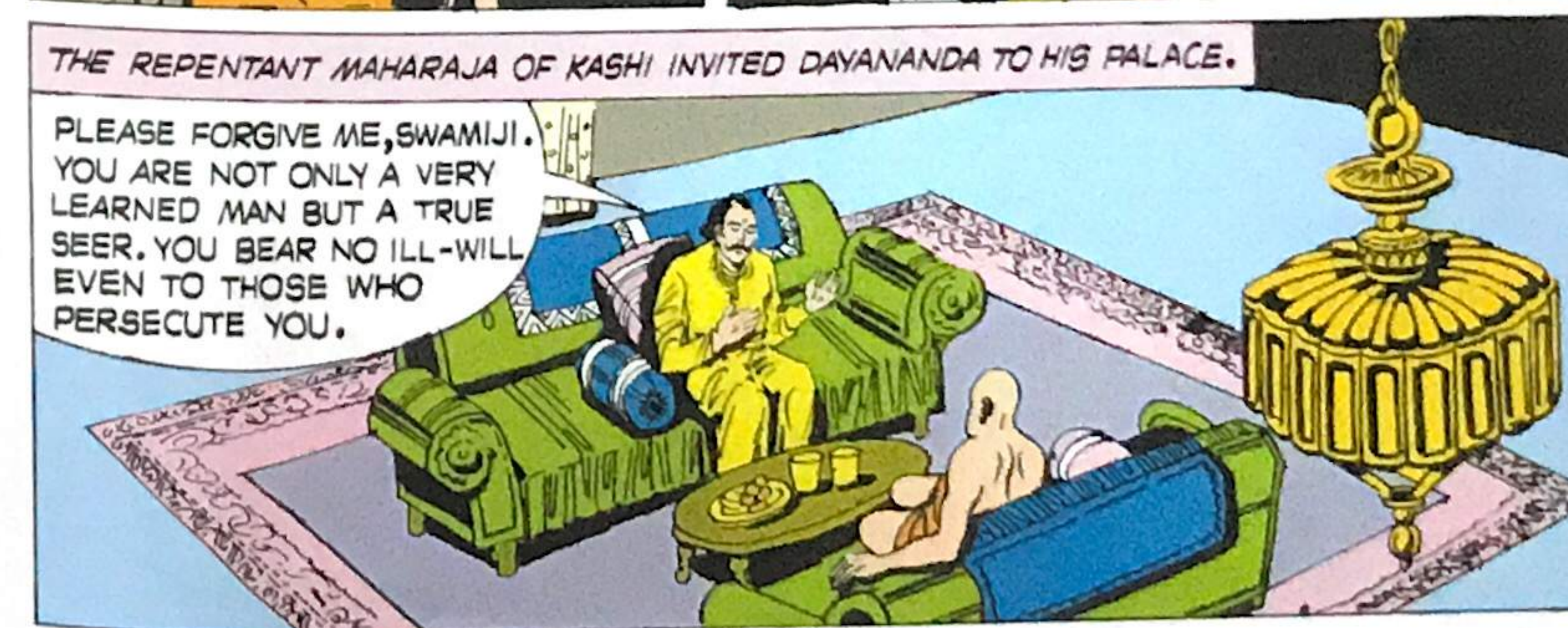
WHAT THEY DID, THEY DID OUT OF IGNORANCE. I BEAR THEM NO GRUDGE.

LATER, THE CHIEF PUNDITS OF KASHI—TARACHARAN TARKARATNA, BALA SHASTRI AND OTHERS—APOLOGISED.



THE REPENTANT MAHARAJA OF KASHI INVITED DAYANANDA TO HIS PALACE.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, SWAMIJI. YOU ARE NOT ONLY A VERY LEARNED MAN BUT A TRUE SEER. YOU BEAR NO ILL-WILL EVEN TO THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU.



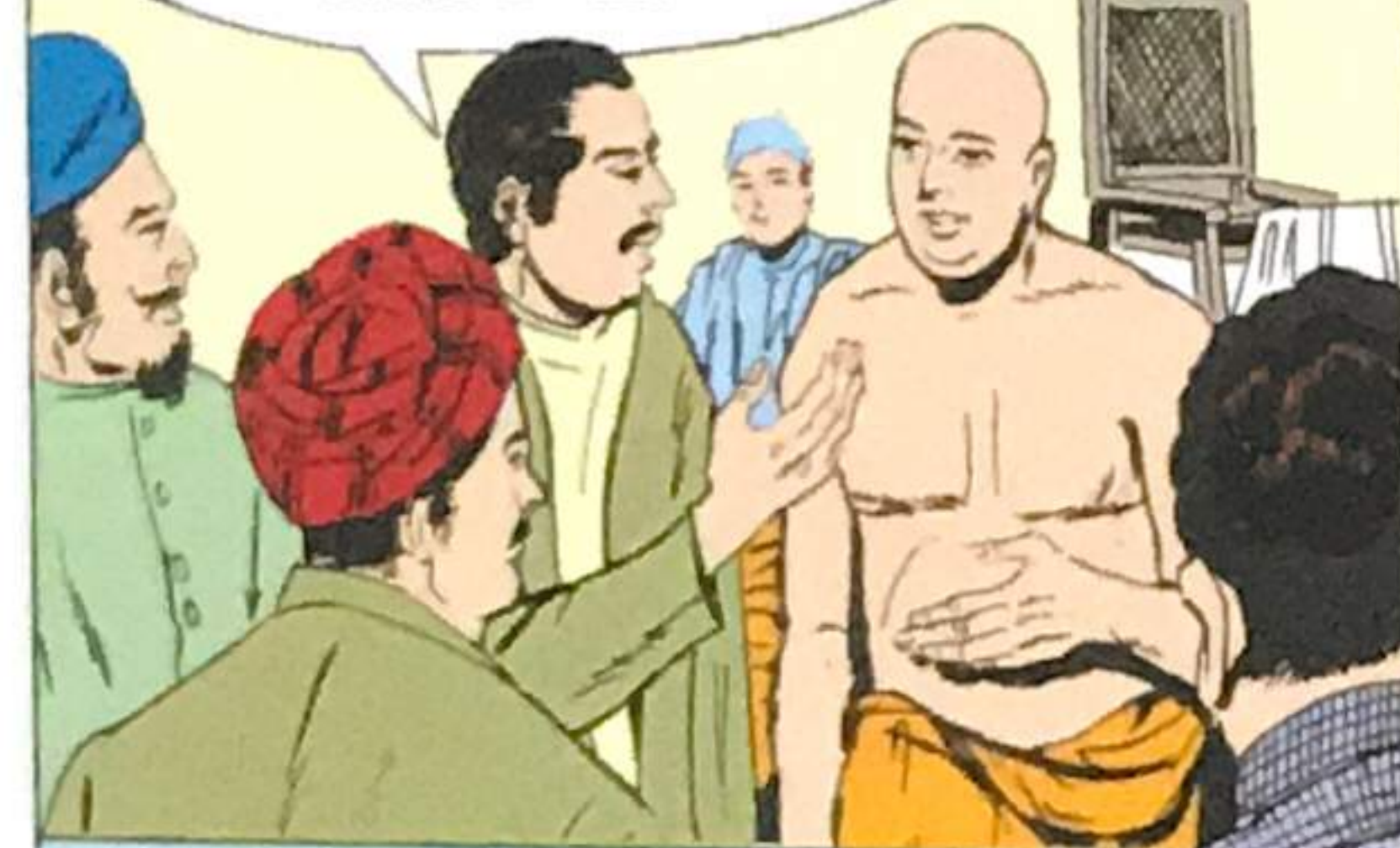
DAYANANDA'S REPUTATION SPREAD FAR AND WIDE. WHEREVER HE WENT, HE WAS WELCOMED WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM. AT CALCUTTA, KESHUB CHANDRA SEN, THE LEADER OF THE BRAHMO SAMAJ, PAID HIM A GLOWING TRIBUTE.



WE HAVE AMIDST US TODAY A CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AND TRUTH; A GREAT SOCIAL RE- FORMER AND A MAN OF GOD...

KESHAB CHANDRA SEN WAS IMPRESSED BY DAYANANDA'S TEACHINGS.

SWAMIJI, IF ONLY YOU WORE MORE CONVENTIONAL CLOTHES AND SPOKE IN HINDI INSTEAD OF SANSKRIT, YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO REACH A WIDER AUDIENCE.



DAYANANDA READILY ACCEPTED HIS SUGGESTIONS.

ON APRIL 10, 1875 SWAMI DAYANANDA ESTAB- LISHED THE ARYA SAMAJ IN BOMBAY.

ARYA SAMAJ MEANS THE SOCIETY OF VIRTUOUS MEN. WE MUST ALL UNITE WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF CASTE OR CREED. OUR OBJECTIVES ARE TO IMPART TRUE KNOWLEDGE, TO BRING ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE AND TO ACHIEVE FREEDOM FROM ALIEN RULE.

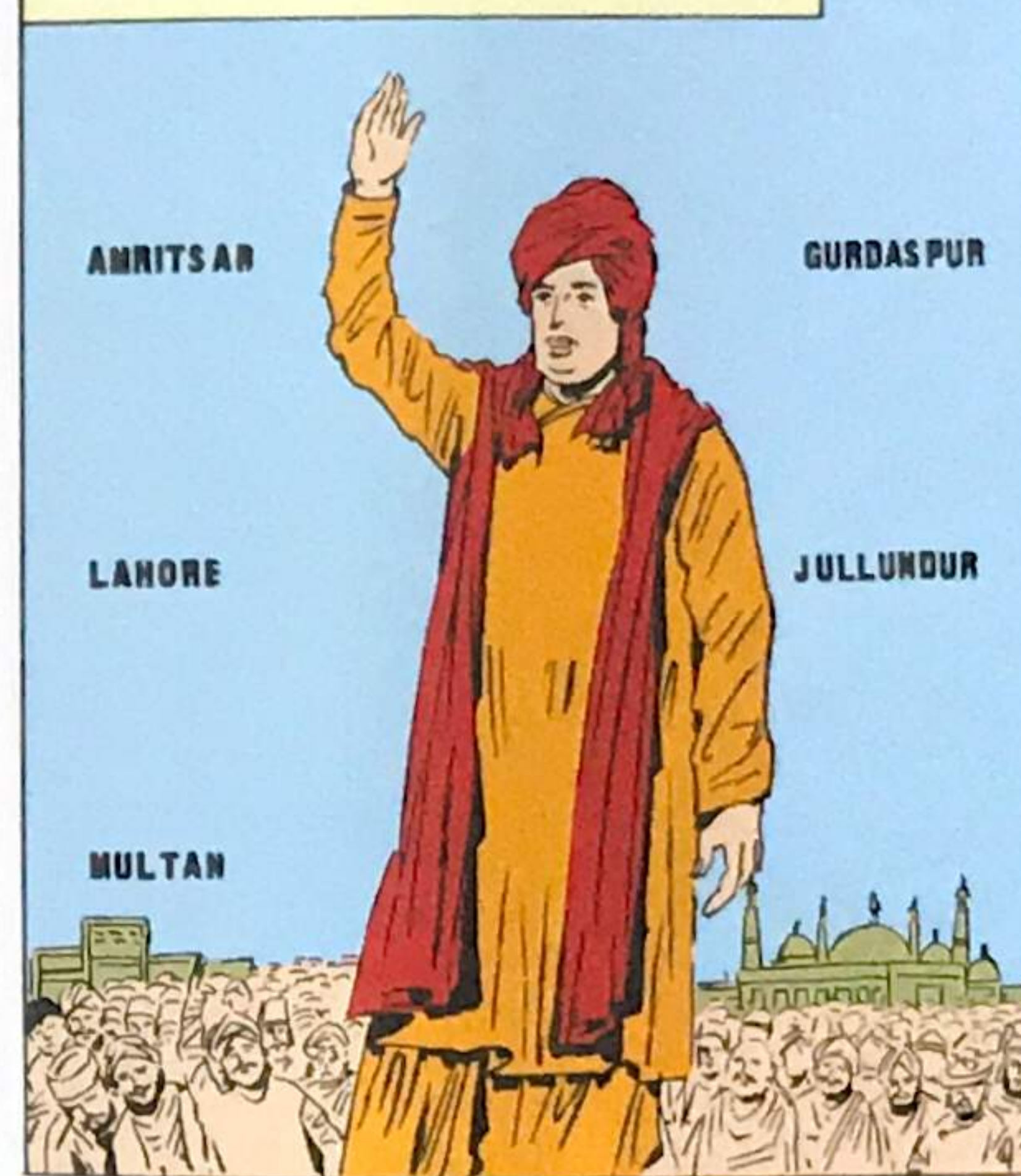


IN THE SAME YEAR, HE WROTE SATYARTHA PRAKASH — A BOOK WHICH ELUCIDATES THE TEACHING OF THE VEDAS. TO GIVE A WIDE BASE TO HIS TEACHINGS, HE TRAVELLED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND ADDRESSED A NUMBER OF MEETINGS.



AWAKE! ARISE! BE PROUD OF YOUR GLORIOUS HISTORY. LET IT INSPIRE YOU TO MOULD THE PRESENT. SHAME UPON MODERN EDU- CATION WHICH FILLS YOU WITH CONTEMPT FOR YOUR ANCESTORS!

HE WON UNPRECEDENTED OVATIONS AND A LARGE FOLLOWING IN THE PUNJAB.



DURING HIS TOUR HE BEFRIENDED MANY MUSLIMS. HE ATE FOOD GIVEN TO HIM WITH LOVE AND AFFECTION BY ANYONE. THIS WAS QUITE A REVOLUTIONARY IDEA IN THOSE DAYS.

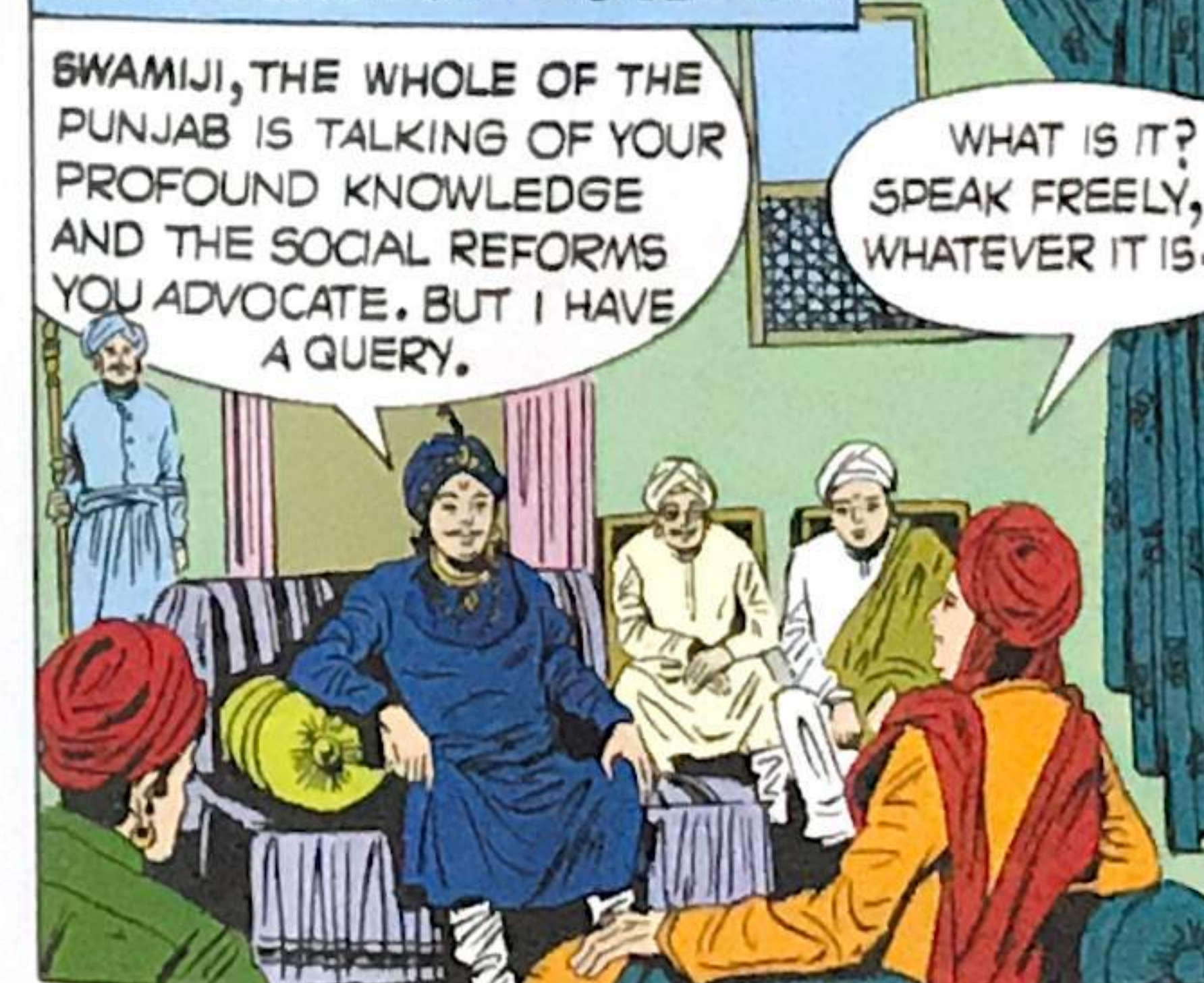


THE VEDAS BELONG TO THE WHOLE OF MANKIND, FOR TRUTH IS UNIVERSAL. SO IS GOD. ARE WE NOT ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE SAME FATHER?

WHEN HE WAS STAYING AT JULLUNDUR, SARDAR VIKRAM SINGH CAME TO SEE HIM.

SWAMIJI, THE WHOLE OF THE PUNJAB IS TALKING OF YOUR PROFOUND KNOWLEDGE AND THE SOCIAL REFORMS YOU ADVOCATE. BUT I HAVE A QUERY.

WHAT IS IT? SPEAK FREELY, WHATEVER IT IS.

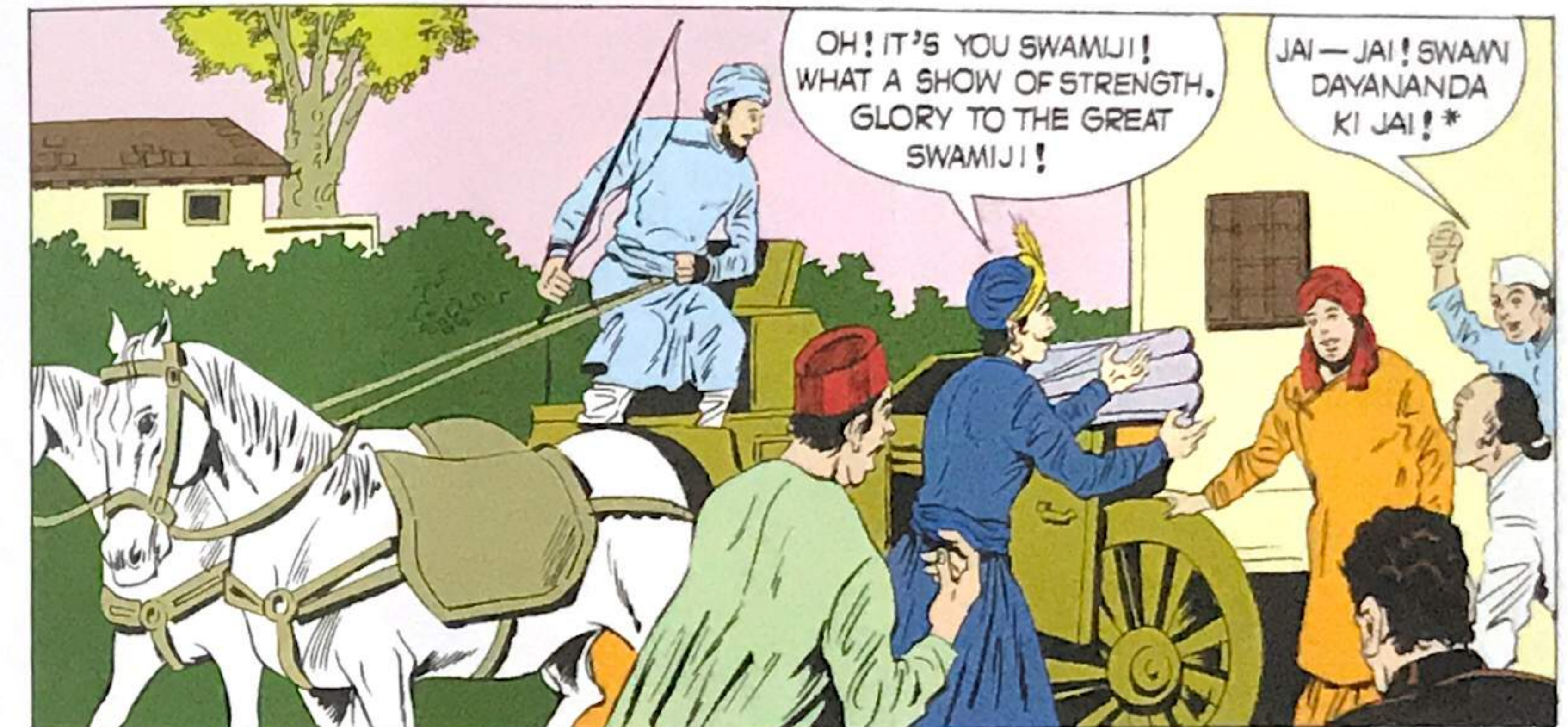
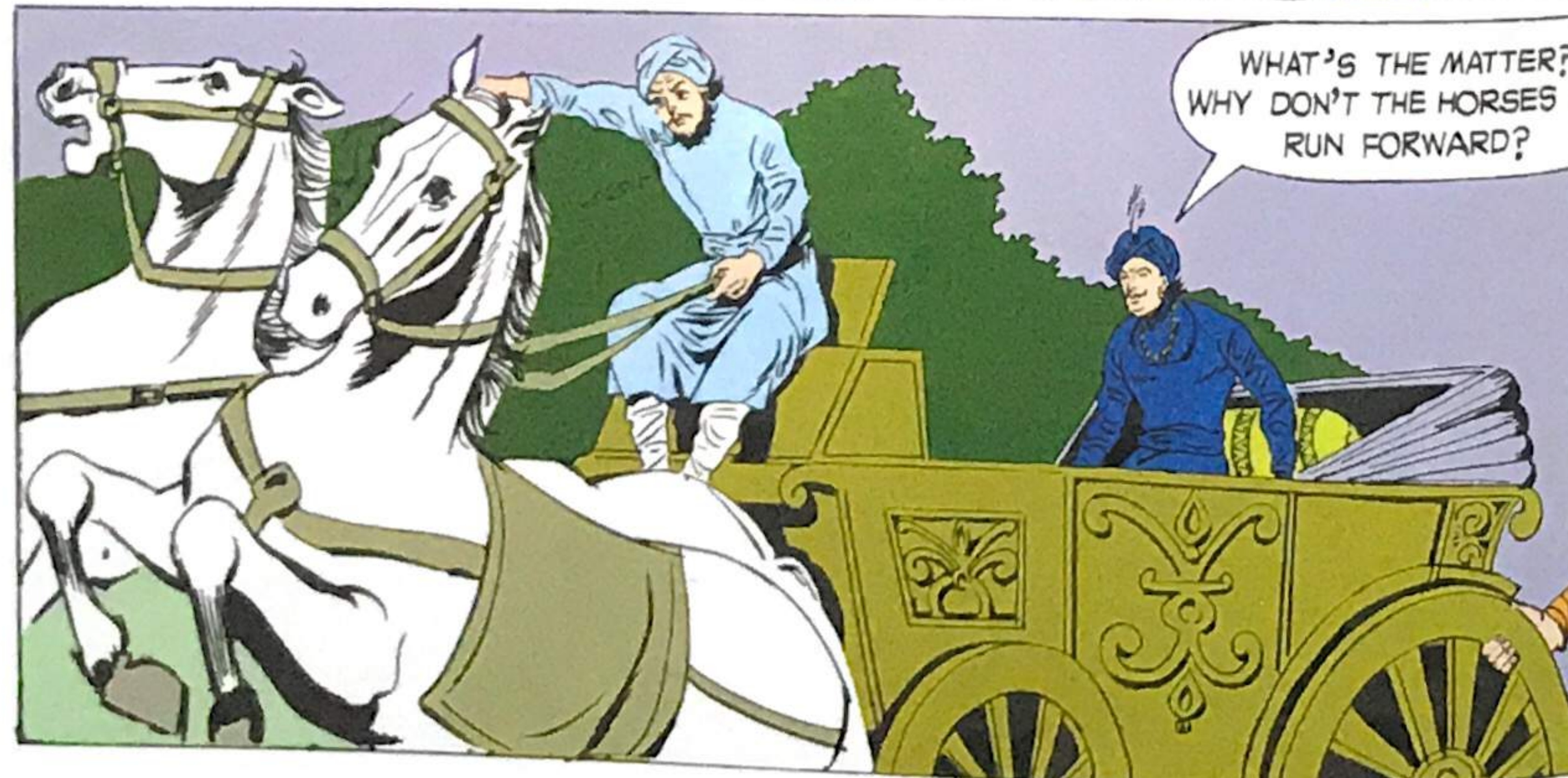
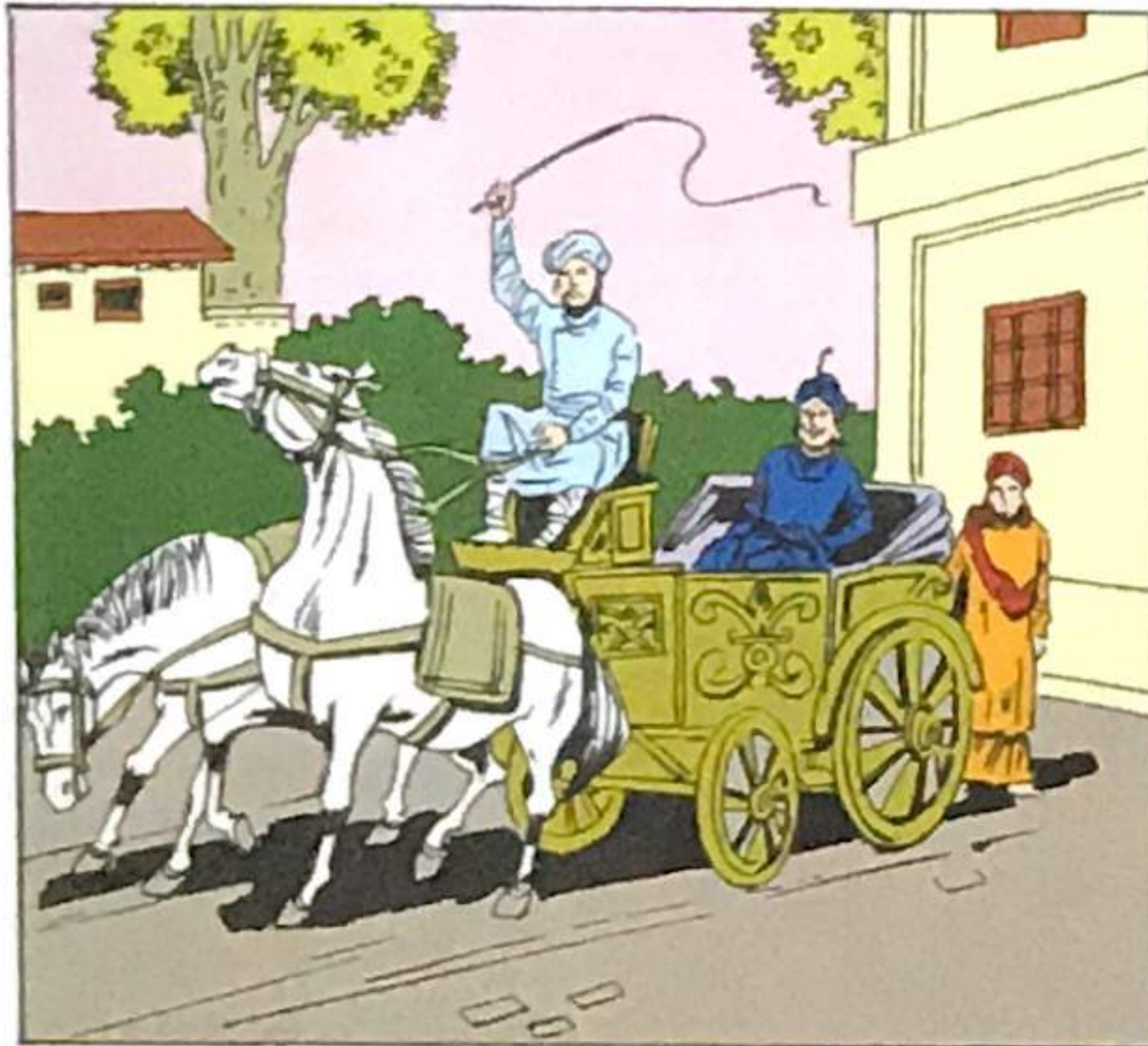
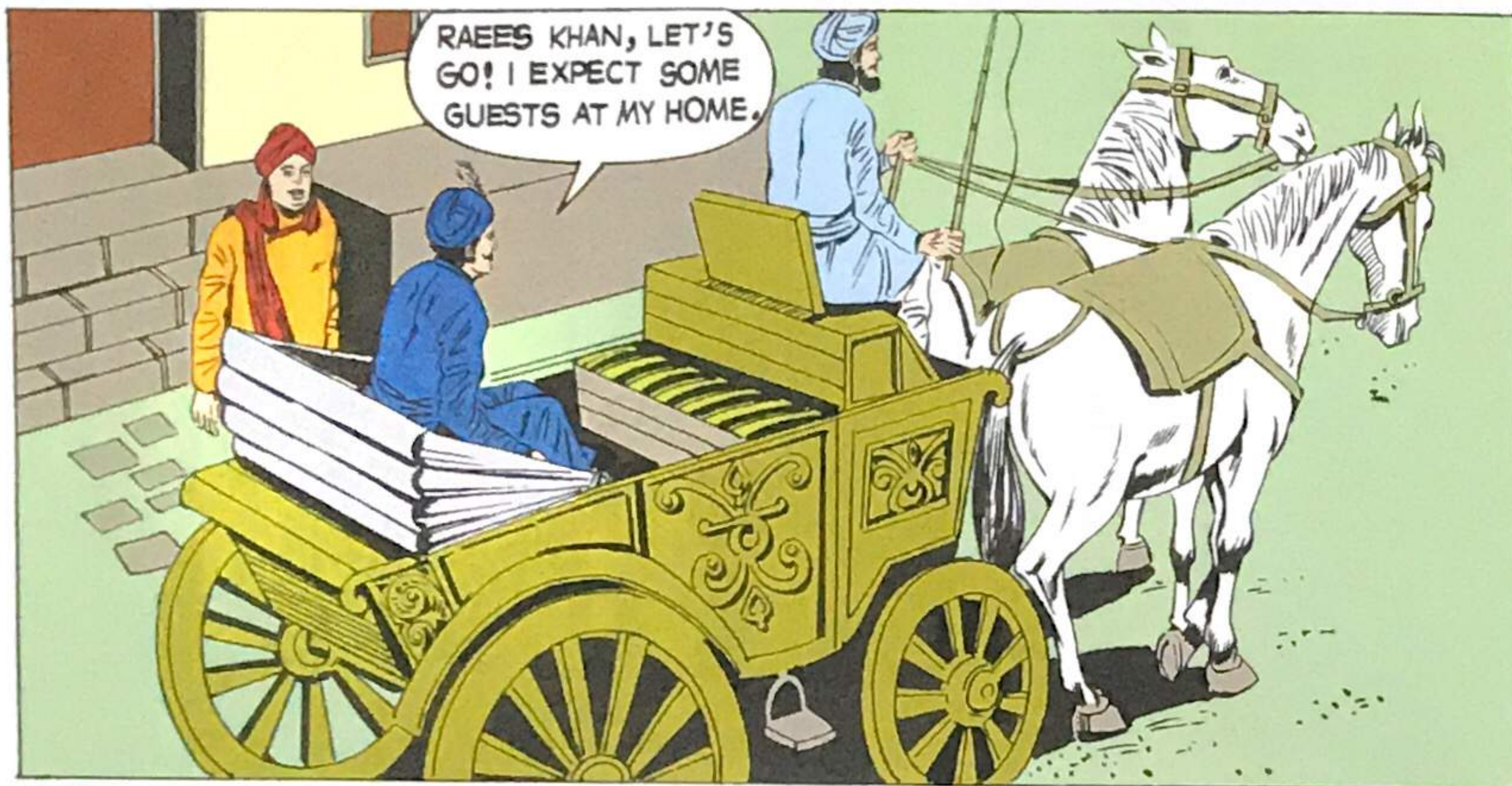


I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE A BAL BRAHMACHARI — A LIFELONG CELIBATE. CAN YOU SHOW US SOME SUPERHUMAN FEAT OF PHYSICAL STRENGTH ALSO?

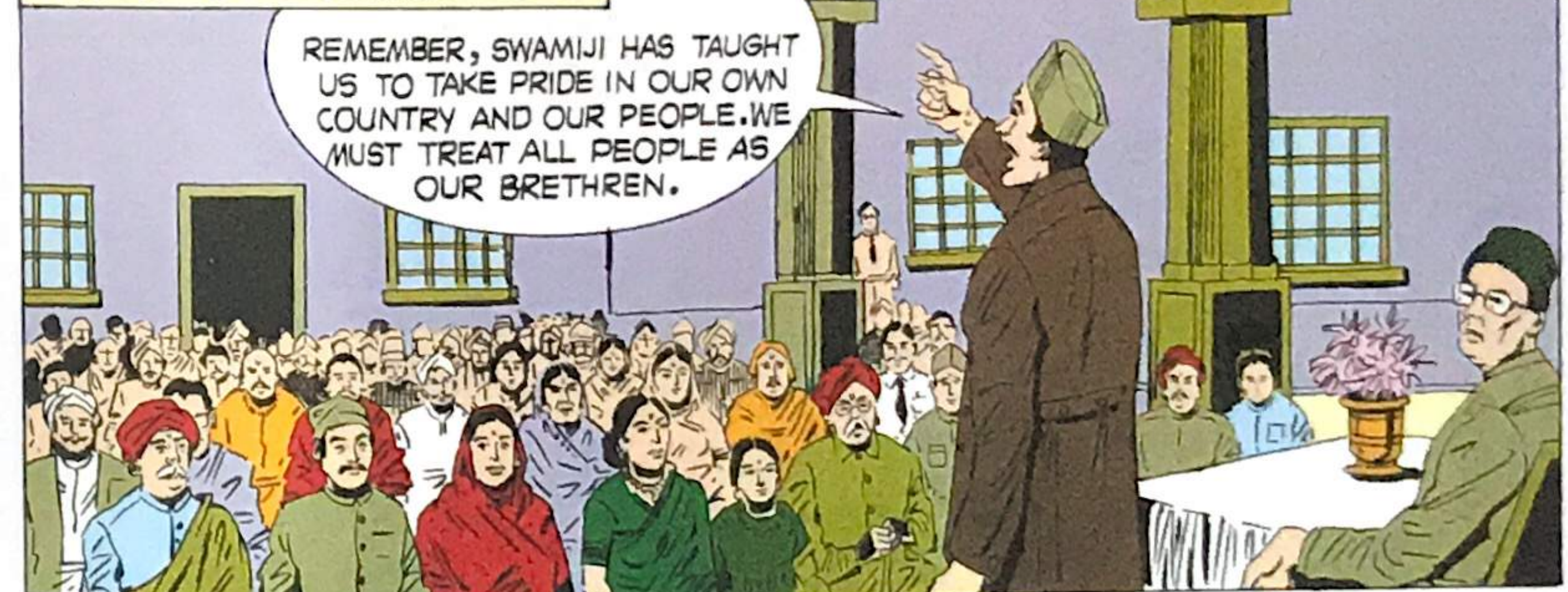


STRENGTH IS ALWAYS GOOD, VIKRAM SINGH, BE IT MENTAL OR PHYSICAL. BUT WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO PROVE MY STRENGTH?

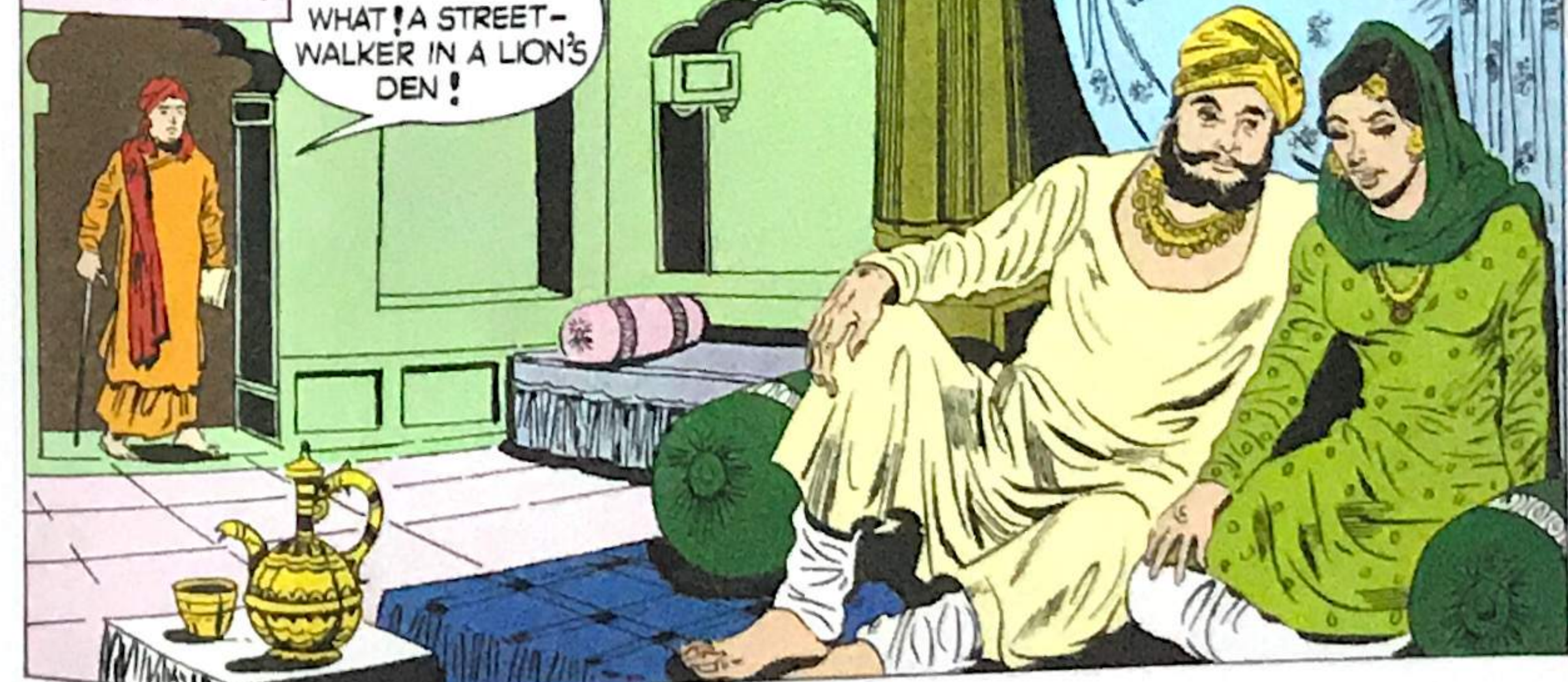
NO, NO SWAMIJI! PLEASE FORGIVE ME, IF I HAVE OFFENDED YOU. KINDLY PERMIT ME TO TAKE YOUR LEAVE FOR THE DAY.



SOON ARYA SAMAJ HALLS WERE OPENED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. SWAMIJI'S IDEAS FILTERED THROUGH TO THE COMMON PEOPLE.



TWO YEARS LATER, HE WENT TO JODHPUR, WHERE THE MAHARAJA AND HIS FAMILY MEMBERS BECAME HIS DISCIPLES. ONE DAY THE SWAMIJI WAS ANNOYED TO SEE NANHIJAN, A DANCING GIRL, WITH THE MAHARAJA.



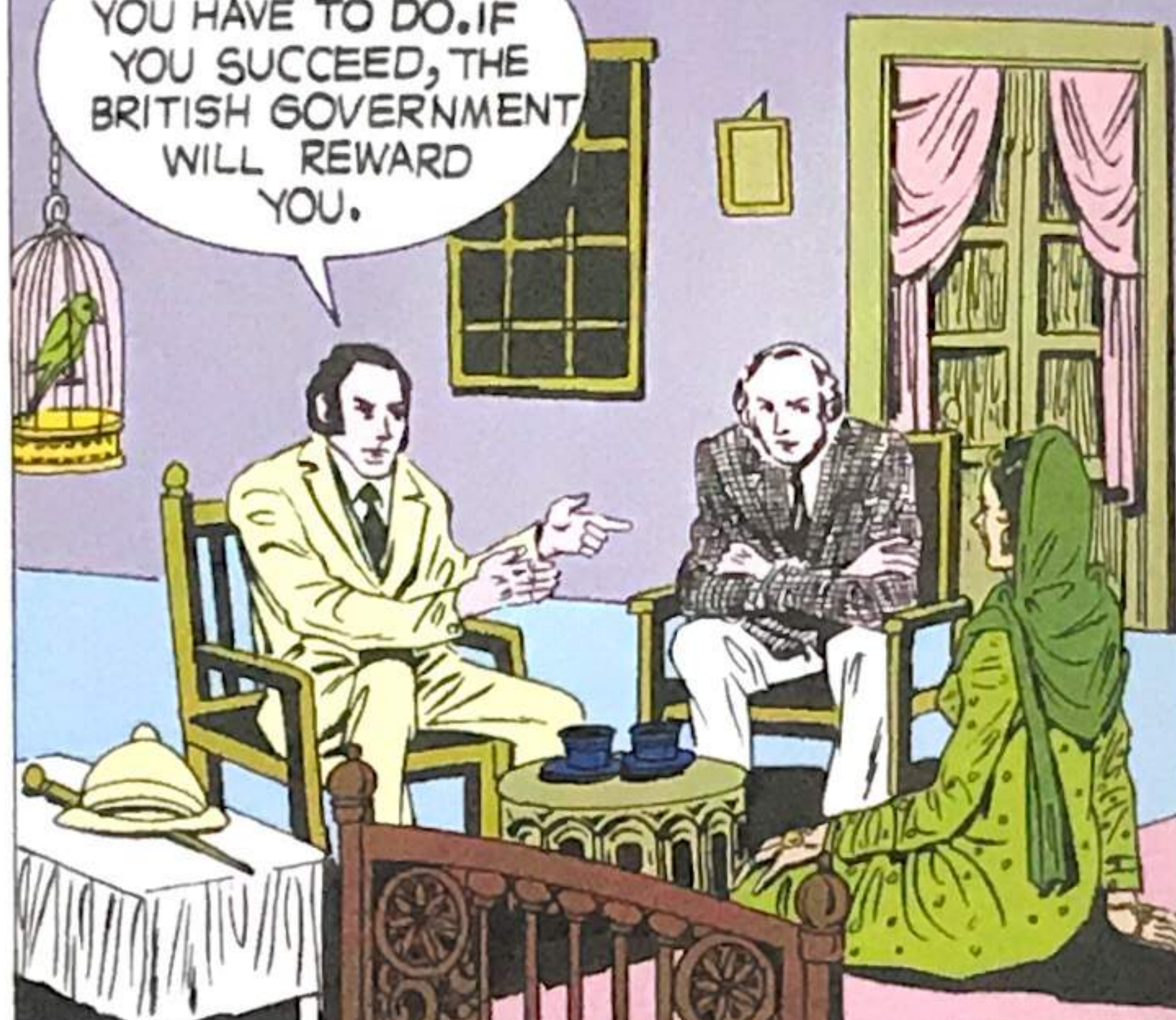
THE MAHARAJA ASKED NANHIJAN TO LEAVE THE ROOM.

THIS FAKIR IS MAKING A NUISANCE OF HIMSELF! HE SHOULD BE SILENCED.



THE BRITISH WHO WERE SUSPICIOUS OF THE SWAMI'S ROLE IN THE RISE OF INDIAN NATIONALISM, SENT TWO SPIES TO MEET NANHIJAN.

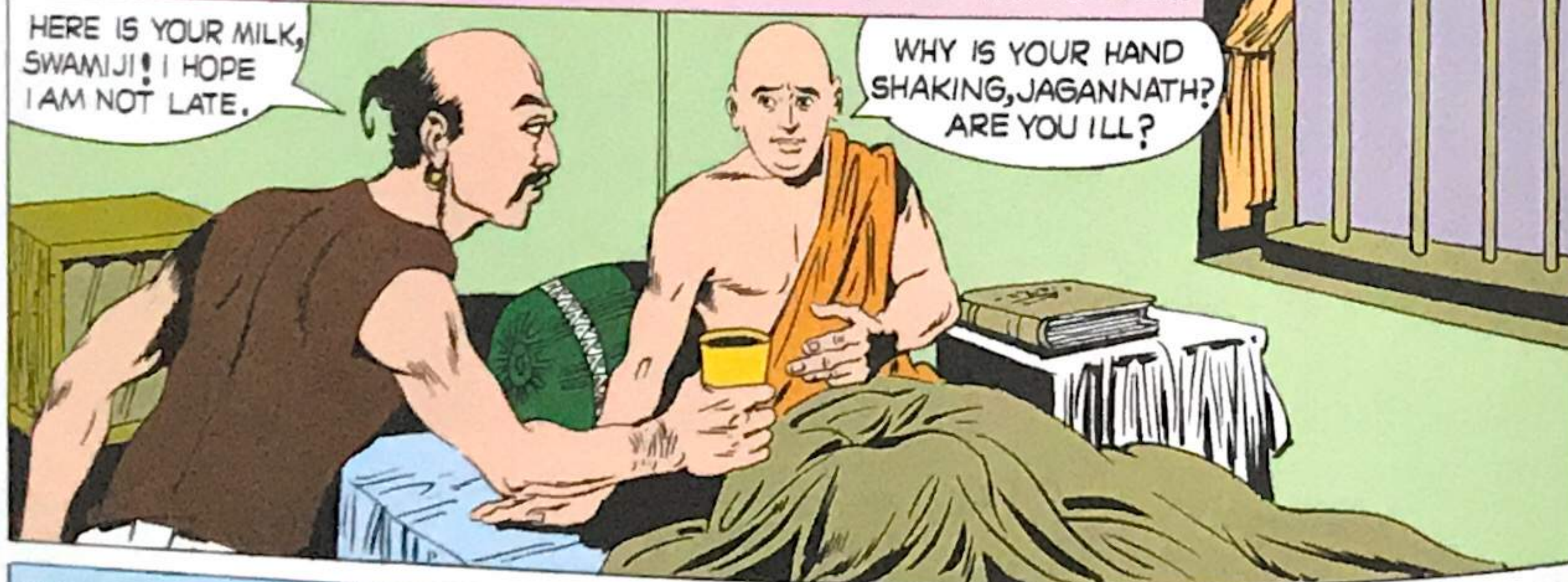
... THAT IS ALL YOU HAVE TO DO, IF YOU SUCCEED, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL REWARD YOU.



NANHIJAN MADE THE COOK ADD POWDERED GLASS TO DAYANANDA'S MILK.

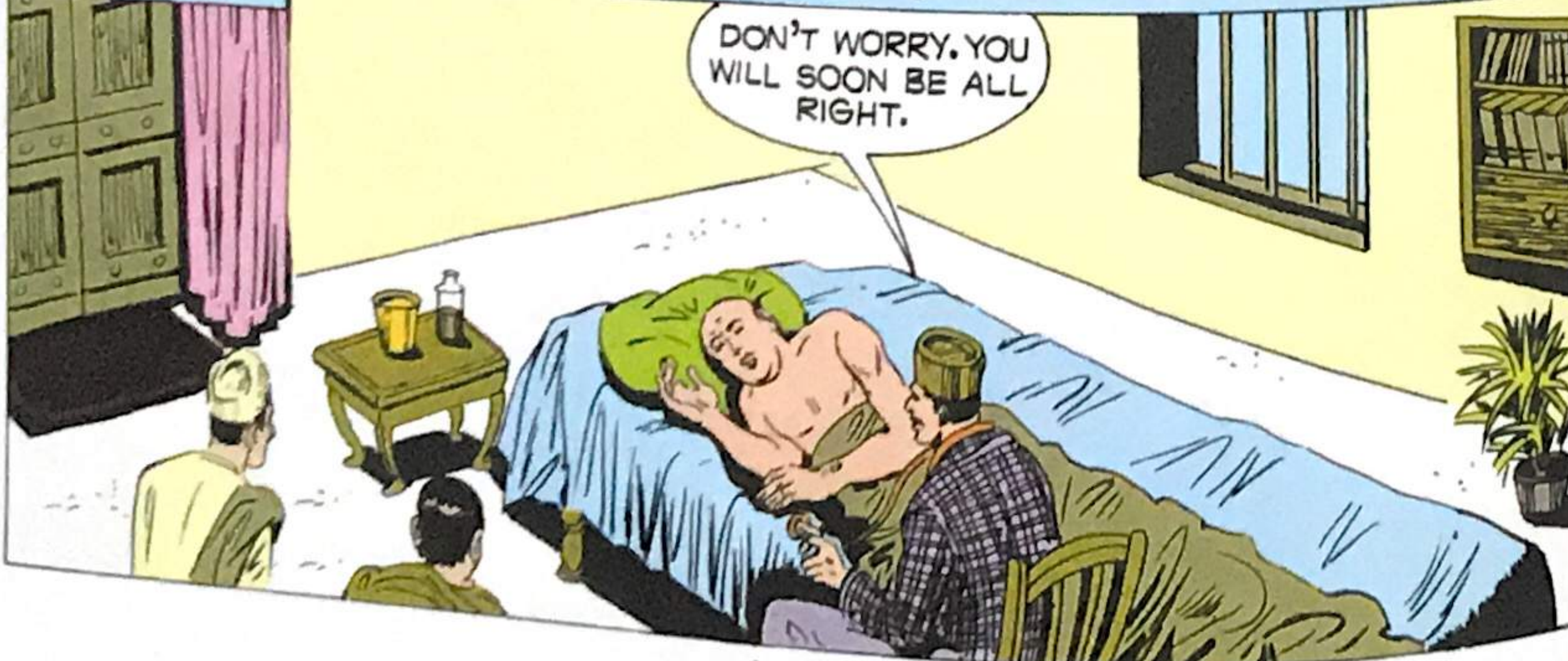
HERE IS YOUR MILK, SWAMIJI! I HOPE I AM NOT LATE.

WHY IS YOUR HAND SHAKING, JAGANNATH? ARE YOU ILL?



THE SWAMIJI BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL. A DOCTOR WAS CALLED, BUT THE MEDICINE ONLY MADE HIS CONDITION WORSE.

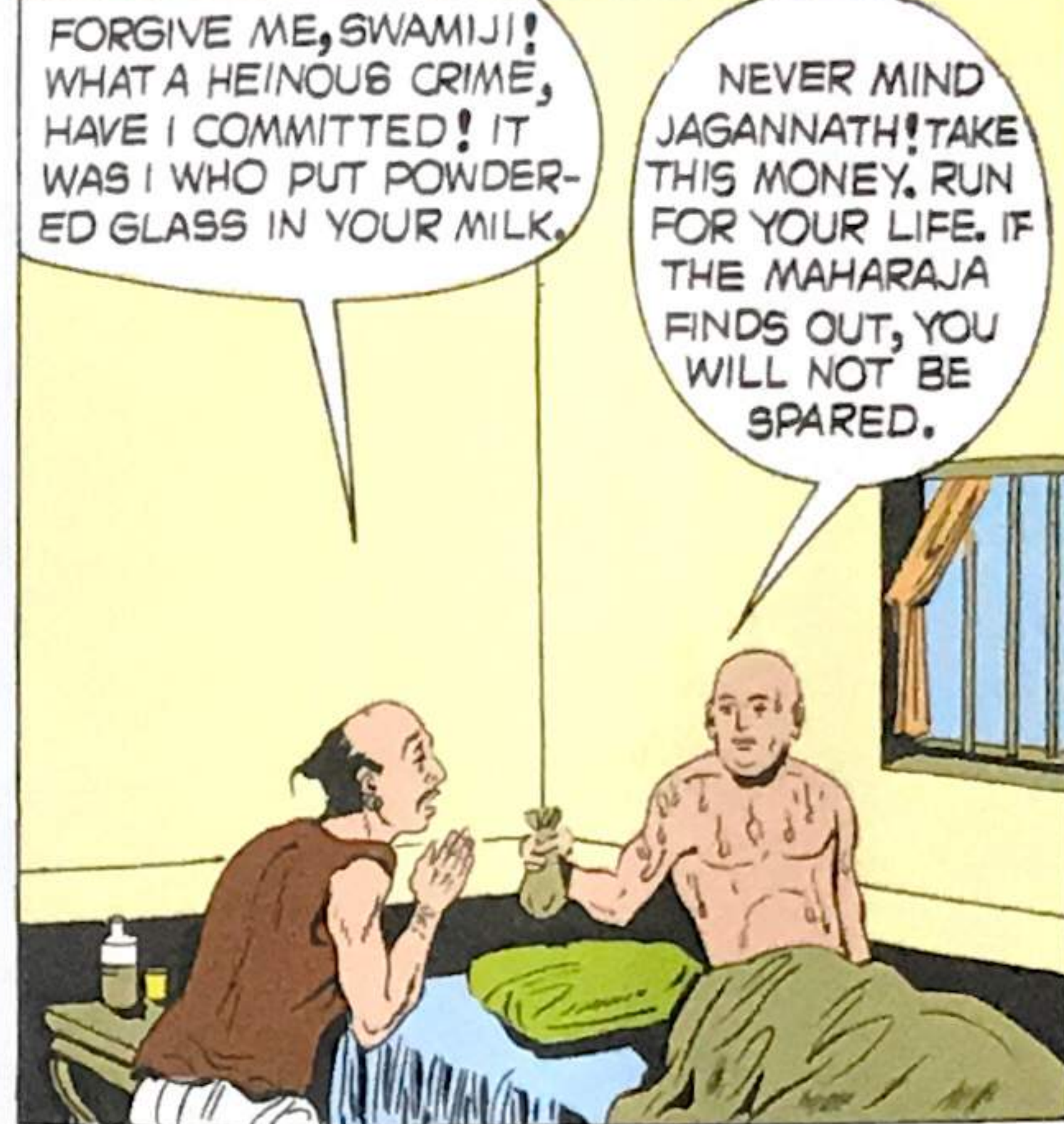
DON'T WORRY. YOU WILL SOON BE ALL RIGHT.



BUT THE SWAMIJI DID NOT BECOME ALL RIGHT. OOZING SORES BROKE OUT ALL OVER HIS BODY. AT LAST, THE COOK, UNABLE TO BEAR HIS GUILT BROKE DOWN AND CONFESSED.

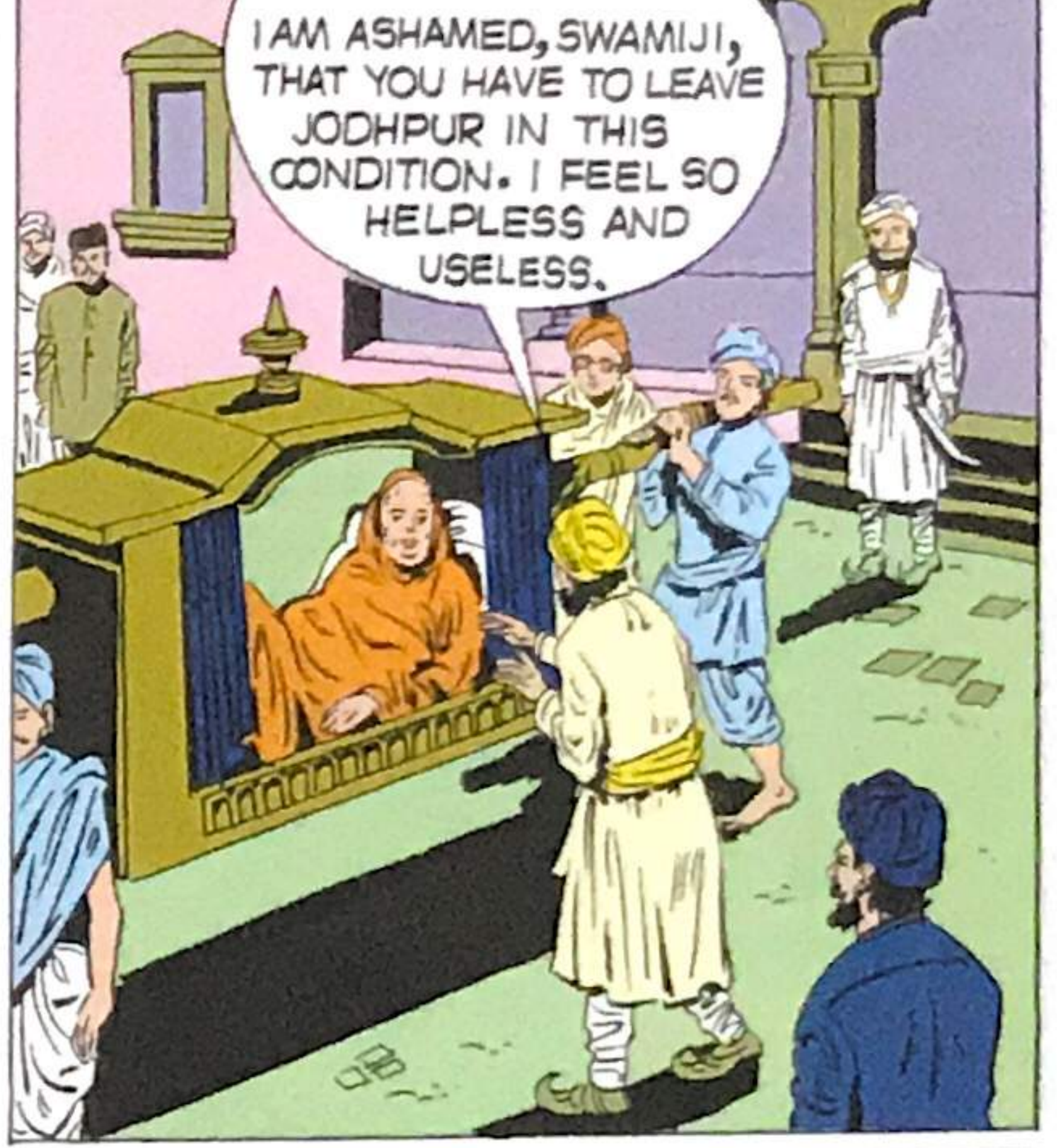
FORGIVE ME, SWAMIJI! WHAT A HEINOUS CRIME, HAVE I COMMITTED! IT WAS I WHO PUT POWDERED GLASS IN YOUR MILK.

NEVER MIND JAGANNATH! TAKE THIS MONEY. RUN FOR YOUR LIFE. IF THE MAHARAJA FINDS OUT, YOU WILL NOT BE SPARED.



WHEN HIS CONDITION BECAME WORSE, DAYANANDA WAS FORCED TO LEAVE JODHPUR FOR TREATMENT ELSEWHERE.

I AM ASHAMED, SWAMIJI, THAT YOU HAVE TO LEAVE JODHPUR IN THIS CONDITION. I FEEL SO HELPLESS AND USELESS.



AT AJMER, ON 30TH OCTOBER 1885 —

IT IS TIME FOR ME TO GO, MY SONS! BE BRAVE. REMEMBER ONLY TRUTH PREVAILS. ALL ELSE IS TRANSITORY. OM!



AND HE BREATHED HIS LAST.

AT TANKARA, A MONUMENT HAS BEEN RAISED TO THE MEMORY OF THIS GREAT SON OF OUR MOTHERLAND.

